

May 8, 2020

Michaël Bonnal
Chair, Faculty Grants Committee
michael-bonnal@utc.edu

To: Jamie Harvey, Faculty Senate President
Virginia Cairns, Faculty Senate Secretary

Re: Faculty Grants Committee Report

Dear Jamie, Virginia,

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the leadership of the Faculty Senate for increasing the membership of this committee and for broadening its diversity in disciplines and ranks. The committee's representation from the several colleges was increased to help answer questions of committee members not familiar with all academic disciplines. With more members, the committee was also able to review an increasing number of applications in a timely fashion. The increase in membership also addressed the drop in the number of committee members that were able to complete the application review process when certain committee members submitted an application.

The Faculty Grant committee met three times during the 2019-2020 academic year to review faculty grant applications and award faculty grants. Proposals were evaluated on the basis of overall merit using the application rubric. Committee members that submitted a proposal for a specific round of funding were exempt from reviewing any application or attending the committee meeting.

The committee received a total of 108 applications, a decrease of 15 percent from the previous academic year that can be mainly attributed to COVID-19 for the Summer round of proposals. The committee received 43 applications for the Fall round, 40 applications for the Summer round, and 25 applications for the Summer round. Of the 108 applications received, 92 proposals (85.2 percent) were funded and 16 were not funded (14.8 percent).

The committee awarded \$144,636.19, an 11.20 percent increase from the previous academic year. This increase is mainly attributed to the reallocation of funds awarded for the Spring round to the Summer round: these funds could not be used by award recipients in the Spring due to COVID-19 and the travel ban put in place in March 2020.

At the April meeting, the committee discussed the merit of including *faculty course release* as a funded activity to support faculty development. We have discussed having next year's committee discuss the creation of a *summer faculty development fellowship program* that would award a flat amount, and would not require a detailed budget in the application.

Best Regards,

Michaël

Cc: Dawn Ford, Provost designee
Jerold Hale, Provost