

Motion to Create Vision Mini-Grants January 29, 2015 Version

Whereas the President of James Madison University has committed funds to furthering the Vision of the University, which is “To be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world;” and

Whereas the President has entrusted the Faculty Senate to propose an idea for using these funds towards furthering the University Vision; and

Whereas the Senate would like to create a process for effectively and fairly distributing funds to those ideas deemed most likely to further the University Vision;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Senate recommends the following process for creating a Vision Mini Grant Steering Committee and allocating funds to worthy applicants:

Prologue

At the beginning of each academic year, the Provost will inform the Faculty Senate Nominations and Elections Committee of the total amount of funds available for distribution during that year. The Nominations and Elections Committee will establish a time-line for the applications, and will judge the merits of those applications and will recommend to the Provost one or more applications for funding. Successful applicants must spend the allocated funds by the end of August of the academic year in which the grant was awarded, and will submit a brief report to the Provost and Speaker on how the funds were used to further the University Vision.

Nominations and Elections Committee Role

- A. To avoid conflicts of interest, no applicant, joint-applicant, or faculty who anticipate receiving any direct benefits from the funding of an application may take part in this aspect of the Nominations and Elections Committee’s work during the year that their application is under consideration.

Eligibility

- A. All full-time JMU Instructional Faculty members are eligible to apply for a Faculty Senate Mini Grant. The term “Instructional Faculty” is defined in the Faculty Handbook as individuals who devote at least 50 percent of their appointment to teaching and research functions of the university. Academic Unit Heads are defined as instructional faculty members.
- B. Part-Time and Adjunct JMU faculty who have primary responsibility for the teaching of for-credit courses and have been continuously employed by JMU in such capacity for at least six consecutive semesters (three academic years) are eligible to apply for a Faculty Senate Mini

Grant. The status of Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty is defined in the Manual of Policies and Procedures, Policy 2104, Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty.

- C. Those not eligible to apply for a Faculty Senate Mini Grant include Classified Staff members, Administrative and Professional (A&P) Faculty, Emeritus Faculty, Visiting Faculty, Scholars in Residence, and Researchers, as those terms are defined in the Faculty Handbook or University policies.

Use of Funds

While applicants are encouraged to be creative in their proposed use of funds, please note that the use of Faculty Senate Mini Grant funds are governed by Virginia law and University Policy. In particular, applicants are encouraged to ensure that their proposals comply with University Policy 1306 - Extra Employment for Faculty and Exempt Staff Members Within the University. Faculty members may receive extra compensation through the Faculty Senate Mini Grant so long as the use complies with Policy 1306.

Application Procedure

- A. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall create an application process and establish a time-line for the applications that will encourage broad participation, be fair to all applicants, and will further the purpose of the University Vision.
- B. The Nominations and Elections Committee will read all timely-submitted applications and will decide on an allocation of funds that will best further the University Vision. The award may select a single applicant, or may divide the available funds among multiple applicants.
- C. Upon completion of its deliberations, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall submit a recommendation to the Provost.

Reporting Process

Successful applicants must spend the allocated funds by the end of August following the academic year in which the grant was awarded, and will submit a brief report to the Provost and Speaker on how the funds were used to further the University Vision.