During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Faculty Research and Development Committee consisted of the following faculty:

- Ghazi Abuhakema (Secretary); Associate Professor; Asian Studies
- Mike Braswell; Associate Professor; Accounting and Legal Studies
- Marcello Forconi; Associate Professor; Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Kelly Jakes; Assistant Professor; Communication
- Michael Larsen (Chair); Associate Professor; Physics and Astronomy
- Clifton Peacock; Professor; Studio Art
- Doug Rivet; Assistant Professor; Political Science
- Yiorgos Vassilandonakis; Associate Professor; Music
- Kelley White; Associate Professor; Teacher Education
- *Ex-officio*: Deanna Caveny; Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
- Jeffrey Triblehorn; Associate Professor; Biology (Passed Away During Academic Year; replaced on committee by Clifton Peacock).

**Committee Activities**

Due to the ongoing global pandemic, all committee meetings in 2021-2022 were held virtually through zoom videoconference.

Throughout the year, the chair continuously engaged in a variety of activities on an *ad hoc* basis including but not limited to:

1. Communicate with previous grant award winners about COVID-19 based accommodations (including extensions, changes in scope, and/or changes in budget).

2. Work with provost budget liason (Claire Bassin) to understand the financial side of our allocations and develop a new record-keeping and financial tracking system.

3. Follow-up with previous awardees about submitting final reports.
4. Follow-up with proposers to obtain extra information for committee deliberations including but not limited to information about flexible timelines to deal with uncertainties from COVID-19, willingness to accept partial funding, clarifications regarding often misread or misrepresented elements of the guidelines (like IRB status, submission of previous final reports, updates of impacts from previous awards, faculty CV and budget inclusion, etc.)

5. Pre-review proposals from colleagues who plan to submit a proposal for review to give advice about form, structure, and content of proposals. (On occasion, other committee members did this as well).

Committee Meetings

1. May 6th, 2021, 1 PM
   - New committee members welcomed to the committee.
   - Official charge of the committee was reiterated
   - Brief discussion of committee’s workload/responsibilities
   - Discussion of COVID-19 complications and accommodations
   - Officers nominated (Mike Larsen, Chair and Ghazi Abuhakema, Secretary) and elected unanimously.
   - Decided to wait on setting dates for 2021-2022 application deadlines until the fall due to the uncertainty induced by the ongoing pandemic.

2. August 4th, 2020, Discussion via email
   - Committee conducted an email vote on some accommodations associated to complications from COVID-19

3. September 3rd, 2021, 10:30 AM
   - Review of annual budget.
   - Set dates for 2021-2022 application cycle.
   - Discussed and approved some language changes in guidelines and cover sheets (mostly to remove references to round numbers since that has caused internal confusion with budgeting).
   - Discussed and implemented accommodations for extant 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 award recipients still unable to complete projects.
   - Committee voted (unanimously) to allow chair to modify guidelines as needed, including modifying graphics in the guidelines document and to wordsmith changes to reflect the general sentiment of the committee perspective.
   - Discussed protocols for reviewing/discussing/voting in this year’s activities.

4. November 3rd, 2021 (11:30 AM)
   - Informal meeting to discuss the submitted proposals for work to be conducted in spring 2022.

5. November 10th, 2021 (12:00 PM)
• Discussed current budget situation.
• Discussed preliminary voting results compared to historical scores.
• Discussed and voted on funding proposals for work to be done in Spring 2022.

6. February 4th, 2022 (3:30 PM)
• Informal meeting to discuss the submitted proposals for work to be conducted in summer 2022.

7. February 11th, 2022 (3 PM)
• Discussed current budget situation.
• Discussed preliminary voting results compared to historical scores.
• Discussed and voted on funding proposals for work to be done in Summer 2022.

8. March 29th, 2022 (12:30 PM)
• Discussed and voted on candidates for the campus-wide Distinguished Research Award. After deliberation over 6 excellent candidates, the committee voted to recommend this year’s award go to Deborah Boyle (Philosophy)

9. April 19th, 2022 (1 PM)
• Discussed current budget situation.
• Discussed preliminary voting results compared to historical scores.
• Discussed and voted on funding proposals for work to be done in Fall 2022.

**Significant Activities**

In addition to the committee’s annual charge to solicit, evaluate, and award funds for faculty scholarship through the small grant program and to select the campus-wide research award, the committee also had several other activities we undertook throughout this year.

First, in an effort to finally definitively solidify the rules that have been ambiguous for several years, the committee voted on the interpretation that should be used going forward for the so-called “24-month rule”. The guidelines document indicated that no faculty member could receive more than $5,000 for any one project or for funds within a 24 month period. There was already extensive clarifying language – but since many investigators repeatedly come to the FR&D committee for research support, the most common point of confusion is the start and stop point of the clock for the 24 month period. The committee unanimously voted to codify this rule to mean that no applicant can receive more than $5,000 from this committee over a rolling window; the clock on this window STARTS at the END of any previous award, so – for example – someone receiving $5,000 in funding for summer 2022 will be ineligible for ANY FUTURE FUNDING from this committee until FALL 2024 (since summer 2022 awards expire August 15 2022 and Fall 2024 awards begin August 16 2024). This rule has not been consistently interpreted in the past, so some push-back from regular applicants is likely expected, but this interpretation has been induced to try to maximize the number
of different faculty that benefit from this grants program. The language in the guidelines has been updated in an attempt to make this less ambiguous.

Secondly, following a committee vote, the cover page and guidelines documents were altered. Although these documents are altered every year to change chair names/emails (when appropriate) and update the proposal deadline dates, the committee discussed and approved additional changes. Perhaps most notably, a substantial revision of the grant cover-page was introduced that no longer requires applicants to provide information that neither the committee nor the provost office tracks, and a few additional fields were added to make processing of awards easier for the committee and the provost’s office.

Thirdly, since this was the second year with the department having a secretary, we more fully fleshed out the roles of that position. Although we did not codify these responsibilities, the understanding is that the secretary will act as chair if the chair is unable to make a meeting. (This can happen in particular if the chair has to remove themselves from the campus-wide research award deliberations due to a conflict of interest or appointment to another award committee, which has happened in 2 of the last 4 years). The secretary is also responsible for updating the final report database and contacting former award winners to ensure they submit a completed final report on time. Based on these activities, the committee now has a nearly complete record of all final award reports for awards starting in 2018 or later; as such, the committee has begun holding proposers responsible for having any 2018-or-more-recent final award reports on file at least a week before the associated proposal deadline to be eligible for funding from the committee. It is hoped that this committee devotion to maintaining this final report database separate from (and in addition to) the provost office’s records will continue.

Fourthly, as alluded to above, we unexpectedly lost a member of the committee in late 2021. Jeff Triblehorn contributed greatly to this committee’s efforts and he was very much missed. Following the guidelines in the FAM, the Nomination and Elections committee solicited requests for a replacement and Cliffton Peacock was selected to serve out the remainder of Jeff’s time on the committee.

Finally, the other task undertaken throughout the year above and beyond normal business was in maintaining contact with previous awardees to try to ensure we were coming up with suitable accommodations for previous awardees who had their scholarly plans interrupted or altered by COVID-19. In many cases, this involved moving award funding sources from state funds to indirect funds (and vice versa) so that those investigators who needed a longer time to complete their work had a funding basis that could roll over from one fiscal year to another. With only a few exceptions, we were able to come up with accommodations for all awardees that will allow them to complete some version of their proposed research without having to return the award.

2021-2022 Funding Summary and Results

Request for funds to the committee this year were once again down significantly, continuing a 4-year trend of decreasing requests (both in terms of number of proposals and in amount requested). We expect that this is probably primarily due to continued uncertainty regarding faculty’s ability to plan for scholarly activity during the ongoing global pandemic.
The trend, however, is still troubling. One area that future committees should consider investigating is how to increase the number of proposals – especially from the school of the arts and LCWA where application numbers remain low but faculty on the committee and proposers alike have indicated that there are relatively few external agencies to appeal to for funding.

Despite the trend of decreasing requests, the committee hopes that the provost’s office continues to fund this program at its current levels. Whenever the impacts from COVID do dissipate, it would not be possible to find support for all of the quality proposed work if request numbers return to historical (or higher) levels. Further, since the college is explicitly marketing itself as a top destination for experiential learning and many of these faculty research projects result in high-impact individualized learning experiences for our students, continued support of this program demonstrates a consistency between the stated and practiced values of the institution.

**Proposals for Spring 2022**

In the round for work to be done in Spring 2022 we received 6 proposals with requests totaling $19,700. Based on the high quality of the proposals, we were fortunate to be able to fund all of these requests in full.

**Proposals for Summer 2022**

As usual, the summer round was the most competitive involving 14 proposals with requests totaling $56,156. After review, the committee determined that one of the requests was ineligible (as it involved a request for funds to be spent significantly after the end of summer 2022); two other proposals were deemed by the committee to be of insufficient quality to fund.

**Proposals for Fall 2022**

The final round of review included only 3 proposals for requests totaling $12,900. All three proposals were strong and were funded in full.

**Updated Quantitative Summary**

Starting with the 2018-2019 final report of this committee, the chair included some quantitative information that broke down requests and awards based on school and rank. For reference, including this information each year may be of benefit to future committees as well as other stakeholders, so we re-state some of those results here and update with this year’s numbers (see tables appended on following page).

Respectfully submitted, Michael L. Larsen; Chair.
Table 1: Award breakdown by school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Req</td>
<td>Awd</td>
<td>% Awd</td>
<td>Req</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHHP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCWA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSM</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td>–</td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Award breakdown by rank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Requests</td>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Requests</td>
<td>Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Professor</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Adj/Inst/Lib)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Breakdown of requests and awards by round.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Requests</td>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Requests</td>
<td>Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>$56728</td>
<td>$19825</td>
<td>$31074</td>
<td>$20000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>$80059</td>
<td>$47699</td>
<td>$69690</td>
<td>$50190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>$35721</td>
<td>$30850</td>
<td>$19548</td>
<td>$14548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$172508</strong></td>
<td><strong>$98374</strong></td>
<td><strong>$120312</strong></td>
<td><strong>$84738</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>