

Date: Oct. 15, 2009

To: Monica Raveret Richter
Chair Faculty Development Committee

From: Mark Hofmann
Director Summer Faculty/Student Research Program

Subject: Summer Faculty/Student Research Program

Introduction:

At this past summer's final symposium for the Summer Faculty/Student Research Program there were 50 students participating and 31 faculty. Of these, 31 students and 21 faculty were wholly or partially funded by Faculty Development Funds. Student-Opportunity Funds or external sources, such as the Water Resources Initiative, Mellon Funds and other grants funded the remaining participants. These numbers do not include the six *S³M* – scholars that worked with research teams for the last five weeks of the program, nor does it reflect all of the other students on campus doing grant funded research. Surprisingly, given this last year's budget situation, the summer 2009 numbers compare favorably to the previous year when 49 students and 35 faculty participated in the final presentations.

In the spirit of the changes that were made to the program several years ago, Associate Dean of Faculty Paty Rubio and I met this summer to discuss ways to encourage growth of the program and to increase participation across as broad a range of disciplines as possible. In the past decade we have adhered to one model for the program, a ten-week full-time program for student and faculty alike. It is possible that several structural changes might allow us to increase participation both in number of students and diversity of disciplines, while at the same time allowing the diminishing resources that we have to be stretched further. In the past several years we have not been able to fund all projects that have been worthy of funding and given the current budget projections the situation is likely to tighten further in the next several years. Below are several suggested changes to the format of the program, level of funding and type of funding. These changes, if adopted, may allow us to increase participation in the program and allow for a reduction in cost.

Note that the format changes outlined below were discussed with faculty participating in this summer's program at an open forum held on June 23rd. The suggested format changes were viewed quite favorably and evolved from input we received at the forum. Changing the level of faculty funding was also discussed and although we were not asking for a vote of confidence on reducing faculty compensation, many faculty clearly understood that a reduction may be necessary.

Proposed Format Changes:

We propose funding several different types of formats, giving faculty and students a choice of one of four options.

1. Ten-week program: The program as it currently stands, where the program runs concurrent with the summer school programs and the expectation is that students will devote 40 hours per week to research.
2. Eight-week program: This program would start two weeks later than the ten week program and would end at the same time as the ten-week program. The final presentations would include presentations from both the ten-week and the eight program participants
3. Five-week program: This program would start at the same time as the ten-week program. Students would give presentations of their work at the end of the five weeks. Five-week program participants would be invited to participate in the final symposium at the end of the summer, but would not be required to participate.
4. Part-Time Program: A ten-week program that starts and ends at the same time as the ten-week program. Student participants would be expected to devote a minimum of 20 hours per week to research. Students participating in the program, in consultation with their faculty partner could take summer classes or have a part-time job. Participants would participate in the final symposium.

Faculty reaction to these proposals was quite positive. Many faculty in non-science disciplines felt that that the 5-week option was an attractive option and would increase participation across disciplines. Many also expressed an interest in an 8-week option. I did ask at subsequent meetings with faculty if the 10-week option was still necessary. Many faculty felt that it was, this was particularly true of science faculty. The part-time option was modeled by several of the WRI projects, where the students worked part-time on campus jobs (North Woods Stewards for example) and did research for 20 hours per week.

Proposed Compensation:

First, we would like to introduce a different compensation option for faculty. Faculty could, instead of receiving a summer stipend, receive funds for travel and research instead. These funds would be administered by the Dean of Faculty's office and would have to be expended by the close of the same fiscal year in which the summer program occurred. Compensation for travel and research would be at a level of 75% of the summer stipend. This roughly equates to the take home portion of the summer stipend. Second, we would like to institute a policy in which faculty who are receiving a summer stipend via an external grant would not be eligible to receive the faculty stipend or research and travel funds. This corrects an inequity in which some faculty in the past have been compensated by the granting institution and the Summer Research Program for work on the same project.

	Student Stipend	Room and Board costs (approx)	Faculty Stipend or	Faculty Research and Travel Funds	Supplies	Total
Ten-Week	\$2500	\$1000	\$2000 or	\$1500	\$750	\$5750-\$6250
Eight-Week	\$2000	\$800	\$1600 or	\$1200	\$750	\$4750-\$5150
Five-Week	\$1250	\$500	\$1000 or	\$750	\$375	\$2875-\$3125
Part-Time	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000 or	\$750	\$375	\$3125-\$3375

Note the student stipend for the part-time program is less than half that of the full-time program. We felt that \$1000 and free room and board in the summer in Saratoga for a part-time program was more than adequate compensation. Also note that these compensation levels for faculty are less than the current level of the 10-week program. The faculty stipend for the current program is \$3000. However it should be noted that the faculty stipend for our summer program is considerably higher than compensation at our peer institutions and that is still the case even after these proposed reductions. In a 2006 query to the Northeast Dean's mailing list the following responses were received:

Institution	Summer Stipend
Connecticut College	\$0
Hamilton	Some faculty receive \$1500, faculty in sciences receive \$0
Hobart William Smith	\$0
Holy Cross	\$0
Lafayette	\$0
Middlebury	Some faculty receive between \$1000 and \$2000
Saint Lawrence	\$1250
Smith	\$0
Swarthmore	\$0
Trinity	\$0
Vassar	\$1000
Wellesley	\$1000
Williams	\$0

Many institutions responded that often faculty in the sciences are supported by external grants in the summer.