Annual report of the Faculty Research Awards Committee, 2002-2003

During the past year, the Faculty Research Awards Committee (FRAC) provided research funds to forty-eight of our colleagues. The grants were allocated as follows: Grants-in-Aid ($1500 or less), twenty-three awards; Faculty Research Fund ($1501-5000), fifteen awards; Summer Research Awards ($5500), three awards; Senior Semester Research Awards, two awards; Junior Semester Leave Awards (Mellon Grants), two awards. Two FRF awards and one GIA were funded by the Marshall Bio-Medical Research Fund.

At the start of the school year the Committee’s most pressing task was to negotiate secure funding for the Senior Semester Research Awards. Misunderstandings between the Committee and the administration over the funding of the semester leaves during the previous year had jeopardized the existence of the program, but happily, at year’s end, the Provost and Dean Ernst decided not only to continue the program but to expand it. Additional funds were provided to grant two more Senior Awards and one more Junior Award for next year. Starting next year the FRAC will be able to make a total of four Senior awards and four Junior Awards (two of which will still be funded by the Mellon Grant). The Committee would like to acknowledge and applaud the administration’s enlightened support of faculty research.

Each year the Committee is also charged with selecting the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Prize. The prize rotates annually among three departmental groupings, and this year it was the turn of the Social Sciences. The Committee chose to give two prizes, one to Professor Tony Smith (Political Science) and the other to Professor Maryanne Wolf (Child Development).

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank Professors Harry Bernheim and Bruce Boghosian for acting as our sub-committee for Grants-in-Aid applications.

On behalf of the Committee,
Sincerely,

Andrew McClellan
Chair, FRAC