May 4, 2004

Faculty Research Awards Committee – Final Report

Attempts to increase knowledge of opportunities for research support amongst the faculty (the Chair attended new faculty orientation, general faculty and Chairs’ meetings) resulted in a record number of applications this year. Competition was greatly increased in the major categories of award. (Some disgruntled communications to the Chair from faculty whose applications were unsuccessful suggest that efforts to make clear the competitive nature of FRAC grants will need to be made.)

FRAC made a total of forty-five awards to forty-four members of the faculty of AS & E. Thanks to increased support from the Provost, support for semester leave awards was doubled this year and the committee recommended three junior awards and four senior awards. The stipend for summer research awards was increased from $5000 to $7500 and the committee awarded five grants. A total of fifteen Faculty Research awards were given in two (Fall and Spring) rounds of applications, and to date seventeen Grants-in-Aid have been made.

In addition, the committee nominated two senior professors from the Science and Engineering departments – Tony Mann from Physics and David Walt from Chemistry – to receive the annual award for Distinguished Scholarship.

The committee, drawn from across AS & E, continues to be a model of collegial cooperation and interdisciplinary commitment. After two years of service I am stepping down as Chair of FRAC. Professor Robert Cook of the Psychology Department takes over as Chair in the Fall.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Andrew McClellan,
Chair, FRAC