2014-2015 Annual Report
Faculty Research Awards Committee
Christiane Zehl Romero, Behrouz Abedian FRAC co-chairs

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Faculty Research Awards Committee met seven times to discuss criteria for funding and to determine which applications from the faculty would be funded. In the interest of transparency, not only the types of grants and application materials, but also funding history and the names of recipients are now being published on the FRAC website.

For the first time in many years, the committee had an increase in its budget from $120,000 to $190,000. It continues to have an additional $10,000 from the Marshall Fund to be spent on projects in the "biological sciences." Fringe Benefits for the summer months (faculty and students) and all year (for Postdocs) must be budgeted from these amounts, as well as $12,000 for a two course replacement for Senior and Mellon Leaves (for engineers) irrespective of any departmental disclaimers that these may not be needed.

FRAC’s responsibilities have also increased: FRAC has assumed the support of Open Access Publications (OAP) and established a subcommittee, which worked closely with the appropriate librarians to evaluate publication venues and establish procedures. In light of this past year's experience, these procedures were revised to hasten the OAP application processes. Since time is of special importance for OAP, FRAC decided to do away with the application deadlines established last year. In the future the Committee will accept rolling applications and will process them quickly. It was also voted to no longer support publication in hybrid journals.

This past academic year the Committee also resumed funding support for print publications and will continue to do so.

At its year-end policy meeting, FRAC voted to establish a fourth group for the Distinguished Senior Scholar Award: Besides the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences (including Mathematics), Engineering will be considered separately. Thus each group will only have every fourth year to propose candidates for the Distinguished Senior Scholar Award.

We also continued our efforts to highlight and publicize the recipients of the Distinguished Scholar Award and elicited the support of Diane Souvaine, Vice Provost for Research: There will be
a reception with short talks by the last three honorees early in the fall of 2015. The expectation is to establish a tradition.

**The distribution of awards in 2014/15 was as follows:**

- **Faculty Research Fund Awards (FRFs, Fall and Spring):** 18 applications; 12 were funded by FRAC (two with Marshall Fund money).

- **Grants in Aid (GIAs) and Book Subvention, as of May 6:** 11 applications; 11 were funded.

- **Senior Semester Leaves:** 11 applications; 6 were funded. (This is the most competitive and difficult award to decide upon, because every year there are many outstanding applicants, but the Committee can only award a small number, otherwise we would deplete our funds too quickly, each award costing $12,000.)

- **Summer Fellowships:** 4 applications, 3 were funded.

- **Open Access:** 10 applications, 9 were funded.

- **Distinguished Scholar Award:** This year, the award came from the Social Sciences. (in 2012/2013 the Committee decided that it would only make one award per year, potentially rendering its task more difficult, but also making the award a more distinctive one.)

  **This year's recipient: Gilbert Metcalf from the Department of Economics.**

Again FRAC relied entirely and with good success on its Wiki Website for distribution of documents to committee members and for the filing of applications by faculty. The site now contains an archive on past funding history, the names of recipients and their eventual reports. Application materials on the Wiki will be updated for 2015/16 to reflect recent developments and to further clarify procedures.

The committee members, and especially the chairs, are very grateful for the administrative support of Jillian Dubman and her assistant Maxine Bisazza. Their work has become vital and is much appreciated.
On behalf of the Faculty Research Awards Committee

Christiane Zehl Romero, Behrouz Abedian, FRAC co-chairs

Members:
Jeffrey Berry, Political Science
Mark Cronin-Golomb, Biomedical Engineering
Sonia Hofkosh, English
Jeff Hopwood, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Zbigniew Nitecki, Mathematics
William Oliver, Physics
Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, History
Lisa Shin, Biology
Mary Jane Shultz, Chemistry

Ex-Officio, without vote:
Bárbara Brizuela, Dean for Academic Affairs, School of A&S
Elena Naumova, Associate Dean of Research, School of Engineering
Christine Woodroffe, Senior Associate Director, Research Administration
Donald McGowan, Director Corporate and Foundation Relations
Jillian Dubman, Secretary of the Faculty
Maxine Bisazza, Administrative Assistant

Co-chairs for 2015/2016 will be Behrouz Abedian and Jeff Berry