The Faculty Research Awards Committee met periodically through the school year to consider applications from our colleagues for the various grants we distribute. Membership on FRAC includes faculty from both Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering. Per our standard operating procedures the full committee considered applications for the Faculty Research Fund, Senior Faculty Research Leaves, Mellon Awards, Marshall funding for the biological sciences, Summer Faculty Fellowships, and the Distinguished Scholar Award. Different subcommittees processed applications for Grants-in-Aid and Open Access Publication awards.

Evaluating applications for funding for open access journals is a recent addition to FRAC’s mandate and we are still learning about this emerging trend in academic publishing. To this end our subcommittee works with Tisch librarians to help evaluate whether journals meet appropriate standards for “open access.” FRAC funds other publication expenses such as indexing, permissions, and subventions through our Grants-in-Aid program.

During 2015-2016 we made decisions to fund the following:

**GRANTS-IN-AID:** 13 of 16 applications
4 applications pending

**OPEN ACCESS:** 4 of 4

**FACULTY RESEARCH FUND:** 11 of 15

**MELLON:** 1 OF 1
SENIOR SEMESTER LEAVE: 6 of 8

SUMMER FACULTY FELLOWSHIP: 3 of 3

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR: 3 applications, science and mathematics cohort. Professor Peggy Cebe of the Department of Physics was this year’s winner.

FRAC also took steps to review our procedures and to think about ways to improve and simplify applications. Beginning in 2016-2017, we have eliminated letters of recommendations from departmental chairs for certain grants. We raised the ceiling on Grants-in-Aid from $1500 to $2000 per award. Faculty Research Fund awards now have an upper limit of $6000 (from $5000 previously). Over the summer the Committee will produce a page for our web site that gives tips on how to write a strong grant.

We thank Jillian Dubman, Secretary of the Faculty, and her colleagues for their work overseeing and coordinating the Committee’s efforts.

Jeff Berry was elected as Chair for 2016-1017.

For the Committee, Behrouz Abedian and Jeff Berry

Members of FRAC, 2015-2016

Behrouz Abedian, Mechanical Engineering
Jeffrey Berry, Political Science
Alessandra Campana, Music
Mark Cronin-Golomb, Biomedical Engineering
Consuelo Cruz, Political Science
Sonia Hofkosh, English
Jeff Hopwood, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, History
Zbigniew Nitecki, Mathematics
William Oliver, Physics and Astronomy (on leave)
Jan Pechenik, Biology
Mary Jane Schultz, Chemistry
Jeff Zabel, Economics

EX-OFFICIO (without vote)

Bárbara Brizuela, Dean of Arts and Sciences
Debbie Grupp-Patrutz, Vice Provost for Research Administration
Donald McGowan, Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations
Fiorenzo Omenetto, School of Engineering, Associate Dean of Research