Year-End Report of the Faculty Research Awards Committee

During this past school year the Faculty Research Awards Committee (FRAC) has supported our colleagues through a variety of programs (Faculty Research Fund, Grants-in-Aid, Senior Semester Leaves, Mellon Awards, Summer Fellowships, and Open Access grants). All of these programs will again be available for school year 2017-18.

During this past year FRAC implemented a major change in our scope of duties. At the request of deans James Glaser and Nancy Bauer, we considered an expansion of faculty eligibility to include the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. Our decision was to open our programs to the professors of the practice at the SMFA and to also include professors of the practice in any of the departments on the Medford campus. The administration has provided FRAC with additional funds to reflect the expanded eligibility pool. This change was put into place in the spring of 2017. Going forward professors of the practice may apply for all FRAC award programs with the exception of the Senior Semester Leaves. FRAC will work next year to incorporate some form of SMFA participation in our deliberations.

Some slight changes were made in the criteria guiding applications for support for Open Access journals. Please consult the FRAC web site for policies operative for 2017-18.

There has been some confusion over the alternative means for compensation for Summer Fellowships. Beginning in 2017-18 Summer Fellowships will only be available as salary and will be increased to an $8,000 award. As before faculty members accepting a summer grant can only teach one summer course at any institution.

Professor Jan Pechenik of the Department of Biology was selected to serve as chair for next year.

For the Committee,

Jeffrey Berry, Chair