Year-End Report of the Faculty Research Awards Committee 2017-18

During this past academic 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 academic year 2017-18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Number awarded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants In Aid</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Research Fund</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Access Publishing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Fellowships</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Scholar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mellon Grants</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Semester Leave</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall Fund</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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During this past year, FRAC implemented a major change in our scope of duties. At the request of Deans James Glaser and Nancy Bauer in the previous year, professors of the practice at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts became eligible for several FRAC awards: Grants-In-Aid and Faculty Research Funds. We also began considering applications from professors of the practice in any of the departments on the Medford campus. The administration provided FRAC with additional funds to accommodate this expanded eligibility pool.

Professor of the Practice Jim Dow from the Museum of Fine Arts joined our committee as a non-voting advisor in fall 2017. This academic year, professors of the practice were only eligible to apply for Grants in Aid and Faculty Research Funds. At the final meeting of Spring 2018, the committee voted to have an SMFA representative become an official voting member of the committee, and Professor Dow agreed to continue serving with us. To designate a representative from the SMFA in the bylaws, the committee will bring a proposal to the faculty to discuss and vote on in the fall.

Beginning in July 2018, the Senior Semester Leave funds will no longer be part of FRAC’s budget, but will be held and dispersed directly from the Dean’s office. However, FRAC will continue to review the applications and recommend the awardees.

Also, towards the end of the academic year, we learned that the Dean of Engineering will no longer provide FRAC with any funding from the School of Engineering budget. An examination of the budgets for the past several years and the extent to which funds had been allocated to Engineering suggested that our proposed new budget would not allow sufficient funding for A&S and SMFA proposals in the coming year. The Executive Committee is therefore bringing a proposal to the faculty of AS&E to amend its bylaws to eliminate FRAC as an AS&E committee. The committee would then be reformed as an A&S committee. Dean Glaser kindly agreed to provide some additional funding, so that FRAC should be able to make as many A&S and SMFA awards in the next academic year as in the recent past.

In the event that the bylaw change to remove FRAC as an AS&E committee is approved, we will miss the engineers very much. It was a great opportunity for all of us to work together, to learn more about the research going on at Tufts, and to help support that research and the dissemination of its results.
For the committee, Jan A. Pechenik, Chair

Members of FRAC 2017-18
Jan Pechenik, Biology (Chair)
Alessandra Campana, Music
Mark Cronin-Golomb, Biomedical Engineering
Robert Devigne, Political Science
Luis Dorfmann, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jim Dow, SMFA
John Fyler, English
Zeina Hakim, Romance Studies
Jeff Hopwood, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Eric Todd Quinto, Mathematics
Montserrat Teixidor, Mathematics
Jeff Zabel, Economics
Bárbara Brizuela, Dean of Academic Affairs, Ex officio, non-voting
Fiorenzo Omenetto, Associate Dean of Research, Ex officio, non-voting
Augusta Rohrbach, Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives, Ex officio, non-voting