The FRSFA committee held 3 meetings this academic year. As the previous chair Arthur Utz, Chemistry, stepped down, a new chair, Catherine Freudenreich, Biology dept., was elected at the second meeting. The general goal of the committee remains to serve as a conduit between AS&E faculty, student, and postdoctoral researchers and the administration for new ideas to promote and support research productivity and identify bottlenecks that may impede progress.

The committee discussed which priorities we should address for the present academic year, and settled on three topics of importance. Pre-award support for grant submissions, post-award support, and improving the transparency of the process of limited submissions. The committee identified several areas where additional information was needed or improvements desired. We met with members of the office A&S Research affairs, Jackie DeJean, and office of the Vice Provost, Kirby Johnson, to gather information and discuss areas of potential improvement.

(A) In general, many improvements have been made at Tufts in support for faculty in pre-award grant preparation and submission, including the areas below:
- helping PIs with the administrative portion of their grants
- help coordinating multi-PI grants
- helping clusters of faculty target an opportunity
- Liaison with Lewis-Burke associates to help faculty take advantage of their expertise
- a list of support available on grant proposal submission at http://as.tufts.edu/research/grantproposal.htm

(B) Mechanisms to learn about funding opportunities were identified as an area that continues to need improvement, especially in communication to faculty about available resources. Resources available at Tufts and elsewhere compiled by the committee:

- The office of corporate foundations emails chairs about foundation opportunities
- The Community of Science (COS) Pivot database can be used by faculty to build their own search criteria. The link is below.
- Other universities have good websites with links and databases that can also be used.

Funding databases available at Tufts:
Step 1: Research Administration website
http://www.tufts.edu/home/research/funding_grants/
Step 2: Funding Databases
http://viceprovost.tufts.edu/researchadmin/find-funding/search-engines/
The committee identified as a goal the achievement of a more open process on limited submissions, e.g. more transparency about what category of faculty will review, feedback if a proposal is not chosen, and information about how many groups have applied and coordination of submissions. We are working with the Office of Research Awards to achieve these goals.

Catherine H. Freudenreich
Chair
catherine.freudenreich@tufts.edu