

ANNUAL REPORT, Academic Year 2015-2016
STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

(Requested by Jeffrey Blais, Council of Rhode Island College)

Committee: College Lectures

Prepared by Emily Cook, Co-Chair

Date 5/28/16

Annual reports must contain the following information:

1. Members of the Committee:
Emily Cook (co-chair), John Burke (co-chair), Elisa Miller, Paul LaCava, Sarah Spinette (VPAA appointee), David Posman (student affiliate)
2. Meeting Dates:
December 3, 2015 and April 28, 2016
3. Review of Committee Activities with Discussion of Major Issues

Minutes were not recorded this year given the uncomplicated functioning of our committee. Here is a summary of our work. Excel spreadsheets of award decisions are attached with this report.

- A new website was created for the Committee on College Lectures. This website went live this fall 2015 and is a central location where faculty and staff can access information about the College Lectures membership, deadlines, forms, and guidelines. It also allows the committee to announce its funding awards to the entire campus, not just individual applicants, which will increase the transparency of College Lectures decisions and inform future funding requests from applicants.
- On December 3, 2015 the committee met in person to discuss and finalize funding decisions for the applications for lectures to occur in the spring 2015 semester. At the meeting, the committee awarded **\$10,091** to fund speakers from 15 different departments/programs. Requests for lecture funds totaled **\$17,639** and several departments across campuses applied for lecture funds. This follows the committee's policy of making awards above our official budget to make maximum use of CL funds and take into account event cancellations. Given the large amount of requests compared to funds available the committee had to make tough funding decisions. Decisions were based on trying to fund as many proposals as possible across different departments. It was decided at this time that when funding requests are much greater than the amount of rewards that can be funded that (a) no one applicant will receive above a certain amount of money and (b) that no one department shall receive

above \$1000 dollars when number of applications way exceed financial resources. The awards are reflected on the attached excel spreadsheet. A decision was also made at this meeting that we as a committee would give priority to funding departmental lectures over larger campus-wide lectures requesting large amount of money and having multiple speakers.

- On April 28, 2016, the committee met in person to discuss and finalize opinions on where to issue lecture funds for the fall 2015 semester. The committee awarded **\$8,504** to fund 21 speakers from applications from 11 different departments/programs. Requests for lecture funds totaled **\$9,787**. Again, funding decisions were tough and similar criteria were used as in the fall for making decisions. The awards are reflected on the attached excel spreadsheet inventory.

4. Decisions Approved and Actions Taken

- The committee awarded a total of **\$18,595** for lectures scheduled for the spring 2016 and fall 2016 semesters. Spreadsheets for allocations made for these semesters are included with this report.

5. State Specific Recommendations of the Committee in the form of Resolutions to Council.

- None at the present time

6. Specific Recommendations to New Committee.

- Request additional funding from the Budget Office to meet a significant increase in applications for College Lectures funds.
- Continue practice of making funding priorities transparent in application guidelines and award letters to explain why the committee made the cuts to requests that it did.
- Closely monitor actual expenditures in order to compare award decisions. This information is needed for the committee to know how much it can award over its budget to take into account cancellations and adjustments and end the fiscal year close to its actual budget.
- Streamline application to not contain redundant information

7. Self-evaluation

Continuing a trend from the past couple of years, the committee received requests for lectures funding consistently above our allocated budget. We are pleased to see

increased interest by campus departments and programs for using college lectures funding to bring dynamic speakers to campus. Thus far, the committee has succeeded in making slight trims to requested amounts in order to stay within our allocated funds. College Lectures funding has not been increased by the administration in several years. Therefore, additional funds are needed to continue to bring quality speakers to campus in a variety of disciplines. Given the large amount of funding requests and the decision by the college lectures committee to fund many proposals, we are rarely able to allocate enough money to individual applicants to fully fund speakers who are from areas other than the Northeast. It would be great to diversify and bring speakers in from varied geographic areas, as well as be able to fully fund many lecturers within an organized symposium.

8. Implications of Current State Fiscal and Personnel Agreements on the Actions of the Committee (program, personnel, curriculum, facilities, other).

- None at the present time.