

ANNUAL REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Faculty Research Committee

Prepared by: Natasha Seaman, Chair

Date: 24 May 2016

1. Members: Brandon Hawk, Brian Knoth, Jennifer Meade, Jiyun Wu

 2. The Committee met three times: December 11, 2015, January 29, 2016, and April 22, 2016.

 3. Major Activities: The FRC awarded 23 grants, spending all of the allotted funds. As well as carrying out this fundamental duty, the committee made continued improvements to the instructions and application form that had been begun by a previous committee.

 4. Decisions Approved: At the final meeting of the year, we evaluated the results of our changes and have made detailed notes how to make further improvements when we meet again next year. Our main goal is to do our best to forestall disqualifying errors by applicants and also streamline evaluation of the applications.
- This year was also marked by the approval by the College Council of explicit wording allowing FRC committee members to apply for grants during the cycles in which they are on the committee. The committee appreciates this new freedom, but also recognizes the need for a new protocol in evaluating applications that will enable transparency and fairness in the selection process, particularly in the allotting of funds.
- Unlike last year, where only one member of the committee continued on (Jen Meade), we will all be returning to the committee. Our intention is to meet early in the academic year in order to work on the new evaluation protocol and the abovementioned changes to the application process. Our goal is to push the application deadline from its current time in early March back to its original date in early January.
5. Specific recommendations to new committee: N/A

 6. Self Evaluation: Although we were a group with only one returning member – who was not the chair – I feel that we worked together successfully. We awarded grants and there is a fair amount of energy to move forward with reforms that we identified as necessary.