

Research Update

Office of Research Services

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Academic Research Forum Brings Faculty Together

Researchers from all three Chicago campuses came together on April 24 to discuss interdisciplinary research and to brainstorm ideas about new initiatives.

Following a welcome by Provost Wiseman, a faculty panel consisting of Dr. William French, director of the Center for Ethics and Social Justice; Dr. Kathryn Jones, director of the Neuroscience Institute; and Dr. Philip Nyden, director of the Center for Urban Research and Learning, discussed how interdisciplinary collaborations have enhanced the work done in their groups and also how they work to overcome the challenges faced by projects that cross disciplines.

Following the panel discussion, participants were given time to discuss a list of interdisciplinary issues at their tables, in order to generate concrete steps Loyola can take to facilitate the research. Summaries of the discussions and resulting initiatives will be shared with faculty in the coming months.

Attendees were also enthusiastic about the opportunity to meet and talk with re-

Continue the Discussion on Interdisciplinary Research Online!

Go to <http://wiki.luc.edu> and sign in with your Loyola ID and password. Click on "Academic Research Forum" to access the site and start discussions or add comments.

searchers from across the university and to learn about the many exciting projects that are currently underway.

On behalf of the Provost's Office and the Office of Research Services, we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend, and we look forward to new interdisciplinary discussions and projects at Loyola.

All faculty are encouraged to participate on the Wiki site set up for the event (see breakout box). Also, any faculty who could not attend but would like copies of the handouts are welcome to contact Kelly Fust.

NEH Workshop Provides Valuable Project Support

It's more challenging than ever to get funding for research and programs, so receiving advice directly from a funding agency can provide a valuable advantage. Therefore, the recent National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) workshop was a timely and useful event.

The workshop, hosted by the Office of Research Services, was run by Dr. Russell Wyland, assistant director of research programs for NEH. Attendees learned about current and upcoming funding opportunities and trends and were able to

participate in a mock proposal-review panel. Many of those who attended were also able to meet one-on-one with Dr. Wyland to discuss project ideas.

Loyola University faculty and staff were joined at the workshop by members of the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Chicago History Museum.

Research Services hopes to offer similar events in the future and welcomes your input on program ideas.

Director's Notes

Although I am not directly involved in the strategic planning process that is currently underway, I have paid close attention to the plan as it has evolved over the last few months. The current draft states that one of three "overarching goals for 2009-2015" is to:

Create an institutional culture devoted to public service and research, particularly in the areas of the life sciences and health care, ethics and social justice, and children and families, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaborations.

The specific language may change before the plan is finalized, but I suspect that in the end, there will continue to be a major emphasis on public service and interdisciplinary research, particularly in designated focus areas.

Research Services is highly supportive of

this approach. The university cannot excel in every area and in every way. Of course, we will continue to give the same level of service to all grant-seekers, regardless of whether they are working as part of a team and regardless of their research focus.

But we will make extra efforts to ferret out grant opportunities in the designated areas; to help investigators find collaborators; and to use internal funding in targeted ways (as we have already begun to do with the multi-disciplinary grant competition that was inaugurated last fall by Dr. Attoh).

Here's to the next five years!

—*Bill Sellers*

Recovery Act Funds Drive New Funding Opportunities

The recent passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has resulted in a number of funding opportunities for university researchers.

The National Institutes of Health and the National Endowment for the Arts both created new RFPs for stimulus funds, while agencies such as the National Science Foundation will be augmenting the funding of current grantees.

Although each of the new funding opportunities have unique requirements, all were built around the basic principles of the recovery act, including that the funds should be implemented quickly and are, in part, used help to save jobs that would otherwise have been eliminated. The

majority of the grants must be spent within a two-year period.

Many deadlines for the new RFPs were in March or April, but for more information on current ARRA funding opportunities visit <http://www.luc.edu/ors/RSSfeed.html> or search for keywords "recovery act" in Community of Science (www.cos.gov).

If you are interested in applying for recovery act funds, please contact your research administrator.



Recent Awards: Government Funding

(Grants awarded 2/01/09-4/30/09)

Leah Bricker (Education)

"The Learning in Informal and Formal Environments Center: Everyday Learning Studies"
National Science Foundation, subcontract from University of Washington
\$45,501

Hank Bohanon (Education) & **Pamela Fenning** (Education)

"Illinois Character Education Positive Supports"
U.S. Department of Education & School Association for Special Education in DuPage County \$196,581

Anne Grauer (Sociology & Anthropology)

"The Paleodemographic and Paleopathological Assessment of the Milwaukee Poorhouse Cemetery: A Research and Teaching Agenda"
National Science Foundation \$100,000

Christopher Peterson (Natural Science) & **John Kelly** (Biology)

"Request for REU (Research Experience for Undergraduate) Supplement to Grant DEB 07-0640717"
National Science Foundation \$7,000

Martina Schmeling (Chemistry)

"Total Reflection X-ray Fluorescence (TRXRF) Measurements of Genesis Solar Wind Samples"
National Aeronautics & Space Administration \$14,999

Katherine Tyson (Social Work)

"Youth-led Violence Prevention Project"
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority \$5,000

Recent Awards: Private Funding

(Grants awarded 2/01/09-4/30/09— All proposals to private corporations and foundations are coordinated with Corporate and Foundation Relations.)

Patrick Green (Provost)

Carter Partnership Award
Illinois Campus Compact \$3,500

Raise Your Voice 2009
McCormick Foundation Illinois Campus Compact \$1,000

Michael Kaufman (Law) & **James Faught** (Law)

General Law School Operating Support
Polk Bros. Foundation \$20,000

Caleb Kim (Social Work)

"At Risk Factors of Suicidal Ideology in Asian American Youth"
Mental Health America of Illinois \$2,600

Recent Awards: Private Funding, cont'd.

Ivan Medina (Social Work)

"Philanthropy for all Seasons Annual Event Kraft Sponsorship"
Kraft Foods \$6,000

David Slavsky (CSME)

"Improving Science Education of Chicagoland Immigrant Students"
Western Union \$100,000

Getting the Inside Scoop from the NIH

Dr. Peter Kaufmann, a deputy chief in NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) took time during a recent visit to Loyola to have lunch with some lakeside faculty members.

Dr. Kaufmann, who is also a Loyola alum, discussed current funding trends at the NIH and encouraged new faculty to apply for R01s, instead of smaller grants like R03s or R21s because of the measures NIH has been taking to make it easier for new faculty to get R01 grants, including the expedited review of qualifying proposals.

He also detailed the renewed focus on comparative effectiveness research (CER), which has been significantly assisted with stimulus dollars. NIH defines CER as "a rigorous evaluation of the impact of different options that are available for treating a given medical condition for a particular set of patients."

Faculty were encouraged to contact NIH program officers to discuss research and funding ideas.



Updates for Fringe Benefits Rates and Changes to Awards

The university has recently finalized the FY2010 fringe benefit rates. For the lakeside campuses and the School of Nursing, the rates are, as follows:

Full-Time Faculty: 21.1%

Full-Time Staff: 23.4%

Part-Time Faculty & Staff: 7.9%

For more information on fringe benefit and F&A rates, visit the Sponsored Program Accounting website at:

<http://www.luc.edu/spa/rates.shtml>.



There have been some revisions to the wording of the procedure for requesting changes in the award period of a grant, or the funding level.

Please go to <http://www.luc.edu/ors/proposalsubmissioninstructions.shtml> and click on "Completing the PTAP" and then "Amending a PTAP" to read the instructions. All such requests should originate with an entry in the PTAP system by the PI and be administered by ORS. Requests that involve private funding sponsors will be forwarded to Corporate and Foundation Relations for appropriate action.

Questions about the procedure and details for government grants can be directed to William Sellers at wsellers@luc.edu. For questions about awards from private sponsors, please contact Alicia Menchaca de Cerda, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations via email at amench1@luc.edu.

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Research Services Events for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

The Office of Research Services looks forward to adding new events to the 2009-2010 year. Make sure to attend our break-out session at the Focus on Teaching conference, being held on August 19th in the Information Commons.

We'll also be hosting a series of brown-bag lunches on a number of interdisciplinary topics, giving faculty the opportunity to come together and discuss research ideas. In addition, there will be seminars organized to teach faculty and staff everything they need to know about getting grants – from starting a proposal to administering an award.

Please keep your eyes on your inboxes for details on these events!

