Small Group Grants, Academic Year 2012-2013

FCT invites colleagues to apply for funding to support work in small groups on projects that will enhance teaching and learning on our campus. We developed this pilot project in part to respond to faculty requests for disciplinary, program, or topic-specific support for pedagogical development. This initiative could also incorporate faculty and staff interest in involving students in dialogue about teaching and learning. While there are no restrictions on groups applying for these grants to consider courses or other experiences that may contribute to the new general education curriculum, please note that more significant support for faculty development for the new curriculum will be made available through the Provost’s Office in the coming year.

Outline of pilot project for AY 2012-2013
A minimum of two and maximum of five participants can apply as a group. Participants can be faculty, staff, students, and/or community partners. At least one member of each group must be a full-time faculty member. Grant submission deadlines will be August 1, 2012 and December 1, 2012 (if funds remain). Awards will be in the range of $500-1500, with a maximum of $250 stipend for each participant and a maximum of $500 for expenses (texts, travel, working lunches, etc.). Grant proposals will be reviewed by the FCT Board; we anticipate funding 2-3 projects during this coming year.

Projects should be designed to take place over the course of a semester. Example projects might be:
- “teaching triangles”: three faculty participate in a structured peer-partner type experience, visiting each other’s classes and providing feedback
- course re-design project involving both a faculty member and past students/LA/tutors/WAs for a course
- development of a community-based research project involving faculty, community partner(s), and students with significant experience in the local community (e.g. Civic Fellows, Summer Service Fellows, AmeriCorps Scholars in Service, etc.)
- faculty and staff learning community centered on best practices in a particular pedagogical approach or disciplinary topic (technology, sustainability, etc.)
- development or refinement of an interdisciplinary teaching and learning experience involving collaboration of two or more faculty

Grant recipients will be expected to submit a report and showcase their work in an FCT-sponsored event.

How to apply
The application should consist of a brief project description and relevant background on each team member, as outlined below. Proposals are due by 12 noon on August 1, 2012 for consideration for Fall 2012 semester funding and by 12 noon on December 1, 2012 for consideration for Spring 2013 semester funding. We anticipate notification on or before September 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013, respectively. Forward your completed application electronically as .pdf file to Amy Hark (hark@muhlenberg.edu) and
also submit one hard copy of your complete proposal to the Provost’s Office. Please direct any questions to Amy Hark, Director of FCT.

In preparing your application, please refer to specific guidelines below.

I. Project Abstract (75 words maximum):
Describe the proposed project and explain the anticipated outcome in one or two short sentences. FCT is most interested in supporting projects that have a clear focus and reasonable objective(s), given the timeframe and funding level.

II. Group members:
For each group member, please list name and department/class year/employer. Designate the group leader (must be a full-time faculty member) and provide contact information for that individual. Outline the relevant background of each group member that will allow s/he to make a significant contribution to the project (one sentence per group member).

III. Project Description (350 words maximum):
a. Identify the issue(s) in teaching and learning that have been a challenge and the changes your group would like to make to improve student learning. You may wish to include the kinds of research questions you will be pursuing and/or your considerations of how to evaluate the impact of your project on student learning.

b. Explain how you anticipate organizing your work over the course of the semester, including group meetings, individual research/reading, etc. If the project is not to be completed within the semester for which the grant is awarded, provide a rationale and the projected completion date.

c. State the amount of funding requested and outline how the money will be spent (e.g. transportation, texts, meals, stipends, etc.). Describe any financial considerations that may exceed the amount of the grant.