

From: Chris Foss (cfoss)
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 3:43 PM
To: Andrew Dolby (adolby)
Subject: RE: Possibility of new faculty award
Importance: High

Hi, Andrew. [Here's my report on the new faculty award:](#)

As the 24 February 2012 minutes for the university's committee on Sabbaticals, Fellowships, and Faculty Awards (SFFA) indicate, we first undertook our 9 February charge from the University Faculty Council (UFC) to begin work on a possible new faculty award for scholarship, creativity, and professional achievement and excellence by researching similar awards at a number of comparable institutions, examining the language about our current faculty awards, and then drafting an initial description of the new award (see attached).

The description is a draft, so our committee welcomes any feedback/suggestions from UFC on the draft itself. It is not a particularly lengthy document, in large part because the official information about the existing faculty awards (see Provost's page) is quite minimal and we wanted to be mindful of keeping this description in line with the rest.

Then, after allowing for some electronic fine-tuning of the description and turning our attention to this year's awards at our 19 March meeting, John Morello (ex officio member of SFFA) and I began the process of working with Lori Izykowski to arrange for a meeting with the appropriate representatives from Advancement in order to solicit input on how best to establish this new award. Finally, on 9 April, John and I were able to meet with Torre Meringolo (Vice President for Advancement and University Relations), Ken Steen (Associate Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations), and Nina Thompson (Assistant Vice President for Stewardship Operations).

All three members of the Advancement team were excited at the prospect of such an award. Everybody agreed that the university should seek to establish an endowment in order to fund this award. In order for this award to provide recipients with a cash award (approximately \$1200) equivalent to that of other comparable faculty awards, a \$25,000 minimum amount will need to be raised (and this total must be reached within 5 years' time). Once this minimum is reached, the endowment then will need to sit one fiscal year before beginning to pay out.

Advancement had a number of further suggestions. First, they focused on the name of the award. It should at least be shorter than the current generic but lengthy title; ideally, though, it would have a proper name attached to it. Obviously this name could be modified or replaced if a primary donor was secured who wished to assign a different name, but it would help with the presentation/pitch if there was a specific name already assigned to it, so if UFC has any suggestions along these lines (or would like our committee to solicit suggestions from the faculty or from the university community as a whole), please let me know.

Second, pre-existing faculty buy-in also apparently would aid the presentation/pitch to potential donors. There are a number of specific groups Advancement can target (such as emeriti or

younger class reunions), but they believe a demonstration of the faculty's own commitment to this new award would go a long way in helping to sell the idea to donors. So, if UFC definitely wishes to proceed with the attempt to establish this award, it should solicit start-up contributions from the faculty itself. As a number of faculty members make annual financial contributions to the university, it was suggested that some of these might be earmarked specifically for the start-up of the new award. Again, UFC should let me know if it wants our committee to issue a call for such contributions, if it thinks it best for this to come from UFC itself, or if it feels such a plan should not be pursued.

Chris Foss, SFFA Chair

Faculty Award for Scholarly, Creative and Professional Achievement and Excellence

DRAFT

Eligibility

- All full-time, continuing faculty with at least seven years employment at UMW
- Achievement(s) must have been undertaken during the nominee's years at UMW

Criteria

- Significance/impact of the nominee's scholarly, creative, and/or professional achievement(s)
- Awards/honors and/or other recognition of achievement(s)

Materials

- Nomination letter from any full-time UMW faculty member
- Copy of nominee's *c.v.*
- Letter(s) of support from professional colleagues (up to three)

Procedure

- The Faculty Committee on Sabbaticals, Fellowships, and Faculty Awards will review all nominations and make a recommendation to the Provost

Award

- Cash prize and suitable personal memento for the winner, similar to what is provided to the winners of UMW's outstanding teaching and service awards
- The amount of the award will be determined as a consequence of fund raising by the Office of Advancement
- The award will be presented before an audience of the winner's peers at the concluding General Faculty meeting in April