

FDG Committee Summary Findings and Recommendations

SITUATION

Faculty development grants are an important funding mechanism at CNU. Section XIII-6 of the University Handbook outlines the categories, priorities and process for distributing the available FDG funds.

Currently the FDG Committee of the Faculty Senate is charged with recommending, in rank order, to the Provost, which grant applications should be funded after a similar ranking by the Deans of each College.

ISSUES

FDG Committee has studied the current process and has identified several issues. These include:

- Application intent and subsequent rankings have strayed away from the guidance and priorities outlined in Section XIII-6 of the University Handbook.
- Deans, who have the greatest knowledge of and visibility into departmental and college needs, have little direct control over the allocation of funds.
- Conversely, the FDG Committee members have little knowledge or visibility into departmental and college needs and priorities, making the ranking process difficult.
- Inter-disciplinary applications, which may benefit more than one college, may be under-weighted and not receive adequate consideration at the college level. There is no University level process for the Deans to collaborate on the recommended allocation of funds to inter-disciplinary applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

The FDG Committee recommends:

Recommendation. The Faculty Senate issue a statement to the Deans and all applicants reiterating the guidance and priorities outlined in Section XIII-6 of the University Handbook.

Recommendation. A percentage of the FDG funding (80% is recommended) be allocated to the Deans for direct decision ranking and allocation. This funding would be allocated on a per faculty member basis, but aggregated at the College level. Deans will provide a report to the Provost and the FDG as to final ranking and allocation. **Rationale** - This will allow the Deans to directly fund applications aligned with College and Departmental goals and priorities.

Recommendation. Any applications which are not funded, or are not fully funded, at the College level will be considered for funding using the remaining percentage of allocated funds. The Deans of each College will rank the remaining projects and then meet as a group to recommend a University Level ranked list of applications. The remaining applications as ranked by the Deans are then sent to the

Senate FDG Committee for an independent ranking. The Deans' and Senate FDG Committee's rankings will then be sent to the Provost for final decision. **Rationale** – This change will allow proper review and funding for University level applications.