2017-2018 DRIF Call for Proposals

The Arts and Humanities Center for Synergy is pleased to announce the call for DRIF fund proposals. Tenure-Track and Professional Track Faculty are eligible to apply. We offer three different funding categories that are in keeping with the Center for Synergy's interdisciplinary and engaged research goals, a limited amount of subvention funds, and an explanation of procedures for applying for College contributions for the Division of Research Faculty Incentive Program. Funded initiatives will be those that promise to promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship and/or enhance links to and engagement in the community beyond the campus. Due to budget constraints, priority will be given to requests from units that are not currently receiving operational funding from the Dean's office. Please see below for announcements and application guidelines.

1. **Conference Grants**: There are five grants of up to $2,000 each to assist in the costs of hosting a conference that takes place between the time of submission and June 2018 on the University of Maryland campus. The successful awardees must present a proposal that exhibits interdisciplinarity and/or social engagement with related outside organizations or the general public. The Arts and Humanities Center for Synergy must be listed as a contributor. **Deadline**: **Friday, October 13, 2017.**

2. **Research Continuity Micro-grants** (open to faculty and to undergraduate and graduate students with faculty mentors): Grants of $200-$500 are available to support ongoing projects that would benefit greatly from a small grant for operating expenses. Research must be interdisciplinary and/or engaged with external organizations and communities. **Deadlines: Friday, October 13, 2017** and **Friday, April 13, 2018.**

3. **New Directions Innovation Seed Grants:** Three to five grants of up to $5,000 will be provided a) for preliminary research or scholarship necessary to enable an investigator or team of investigators to apply for external funding, or b) as institutional support for an application that will be submitted to an external agency/funder by June 2017. Successful project ideas will develop the potential contributions of the arts and humanities in the understanding of issues with which they are not widely or traditionally associated, identify specific potential outside grantors and grants, including deadlines and contact persons, and demonstrate how the College funds a) will be specifically used to prepare for those larger grants or b) will constitute critical institutional support that will increase the strength of the external application. Preference will be given to proposals that include interdisciplinarity and/or engagement with outside organizations or the public, and that demonstrate a plan for the most effective use of the funds. **Deadline: Friday, October 13, 2017.**

4. **Subvention Funds**: The College is offering a limited number of Subvention funds of up to $2,000 each limited to the costs, often assigned to academic authors, for the reproduction of images for book publication. Preference will be given first to faculty who are preparing a book for tenure review, second to other research faculty for whom a book is an important vehicle for promotion. The award comes with a stipulation that the awarded funds be matched, preferably by your department. A letter of support from the department that includes a statement that the department cannot match the funds can be accepted in lieu of departmental match. Please submit requests with descriptions of the book project, the image(s) and the contract or letter of understanding with the publisher. In exceptional cases where the request requires a response outside of the submission periods, please contact the ARHU Associate Dean for Research directly. **Deadlines: Friday, October 13, 2017** and **Friday, April 13, 2018.**

5. **Division of Research Faculty Incentive Program**

    a. **Tier I Seed Grants:** Tier I Seed Grants from the Division of Research are offered twice each academic year, in December and June. Please consult the Guidelines and the VPR Planning Checklist to consider whether your project would be competitive for a Tier I proof of concept award. Funded 50% by the VPR, and 50% by the department and/or college, Tier I funds are available to support and encourage an individual faculty member or multidisciplinary teams of faculty to pursue sponsored research or to establish new research directions. A total of $25,000 is available to support faculty applying for Tier I grants during each of the two academic year submissions. In order to determine how College Tier I funds will be allocated, applicants requesting a portion of the Dept/College contribution from the College will be required to submit their application to the Dean's office for review in advance of the biannual VPR deadlines. To be eligible for funds from the College, the applicant's Department must also demonstrate financial support for the application. Preference will be given to those applications that advance the interdisciplinary goals of the College, and that show strongest promise of leading toward successful external funding applications. <u>Deadlines</u>: **Friday, October 13, 2017** and **Friday, April 13, 2018.[1]**

    b. **Tier II and Tier III Grants–** While relatively rare, Tier II and III grants also require significant commitments from the College. Therefore, if you anticipate requesting funds from the College for Tier II or Tier III initiatives, we request that you contact the ARHU Associate Dean for Research no less than six months prior to your planned submission to the VPR office.

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[1] **Note:** The Office of Research Administration has asked that all ARHU applications, whether requesting College funds or not, are reviewed by the College before being submitted. Thus, faculty applying for Tier I funds who are *not* seeking matching funds from the College will be required to submit their completed applications to the Dean's office for review and signature by November 22, 2017 for the December 1 deadline, and May 25, 2018 for the June 1 deadline.

Application Guidelines

Application guidelines have been designed to correspond to those of outside granting agencies, such that applications for DRIF funds serve to prepare faculty for external submissions.

For Tier I Seed Grants: Applicants should conform to VPR application guidelines, and include the completed Universal Funding Form with the application. Keep in mind that College matching funds will be awarded with preference to those initiatives that advance the College's interdisciplinary and engaged research goals.

For all other applications to be verified as complete, they must include:

1. **Abstract:** Provide a 100-word (maximum) abstract that includes the title and purpose of the project, the intended audience (if conference) and collaborators, and the timeline for implementation.

2. **Project description**, not to exceed two single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and at least 11-point font. The description should address the following:

Research and Contribution: Provide a clear and concise explanation of the overall proposed research project and its value to the arts and/or humanities, including the objectives for the proposed period of work, proposed activities, methods, and significance or expected impact. Illustrate how the work relates to the long-term goals of the applicant's research and to the present state of knowledge in the field.

Interdisciplinary and/or Collaborative Approach: Describe the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of all research project team members and the interdisciplinary and/or collaborative approach you will employ in conducting the research.

Timeline/Work Plan: Clearly describe what work you expect to be accomplished during the funding period.

Sustainability Plan (for New Directions and Tier I Seed Grants): Describe plans for advancing the project following the grant period, including specifics about potential external funding agencies, deadlines, and any indication of the promise of funding from such sources for further support of the project.

3. **Budget and Justification:** DRIF awards require that you provide a budget and justification for the planned expenditures. For Tier I, please conform to VPR guidelines regarding budget and allowable costs. For the other DRIF funding mechanisms, the budget and budget justification should demonstrate that you have thought through all aspects of your project and the costs associated with them. Budget categories will vary dependent upon the project needs and costs. Note: for conference grants, please indicate the other sources of funding that will be supporting the full conference budget – e.g., department, other campus funding, external resources – and whether those fund are committed or pending.

Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted electronically by 5pm on the deadline date**.** Paper submissions will not be accepted. The electronic submission form and instructions can be found at http://apply.arhu.umd.edu.

Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will receive guidance in the award letter indicating what our expectations for basic reporting will be.