

Annual Report of the Faculty Research and Publication Board (FRPB)
For Fiscal Year 2015

Background and Membership:

The Faculty Research and Publications Board (FRPB) is a representative faculty board that functions to encourage faculty research, publication, scholarly activities, and artistic productions, and to fulfill the duties assigned to it by the Board of Trustees of the University of Northern Colorado as set forth in the Board Policy Manual. FRPB voting membership consists of one faculty representative from each college; three additional faculty representatives elected at large; one faculty representative from the University libraries; one faculty representative selected by the Faculty Senate, and one graduate student representative selected by the President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Five non-voting advisory members are also named to the board including the AVP for research and the FRPB administrator.

Funding Activity:

The board meets eight times over the academic year to discuss and recommend policies related to internal funding, review grants and make awards.

to the published guidelines for each program and to make a compelling case for the value of their activity not only to their own scholarship but to the wider university community; we also frequently refer faculty to other programs as appropriate.

Improvements were made to the website regarding information about competition deadlines, proposal guidelines, and the purpose of each competition. Throughout the year a number of proposals were triaged due to non-compliance with posted guidelines. Consequently, a Principal of In Y H V W L J D W R E D V S U J suggestions for clarifying the process. While reviews have made an effort to improve the clarity of the review process through online guidelines, FRPB leadership expects unforeseen interpretations by proposers to provide opportunities to further improve these posted guidelines in the future.

Faculty continue to express concerns over the timing of the Provost Award for Travel (PAT) deadlines. PAT guidelines stipulate that each competition will review only within certain dates (with flexibility at the discretion of the FRPB and with preference given to international travel beyond the posted travel dates). PAT review processes include consideration of acceptance of juried presentations or performances. Consequently, some faculty regularly travel to conferences whose dates fall within the range for one PAT competition, but the faculty often do not have confirmation of abstract acceptance or details of travel by the PAT deadline. The FRPB makes accept such proposals contingent on abstract acceptance. The FRPB also continues to have discussions and consider proposals early when the timing of the travel would make it difficult to make appropriate reservations after proceeding to PAT review. Ultimately, members of the FRPB acknowledge that there will be no universal PAT dates that will equally accommodate the various schedules of the many research disciplines across campus.

FRPB leadership recently discussed the issue of incurring travel costs using PAT funds when reservations were made prior to the PAT review. Previously FRPB has not awarded funds for any purchases made prior to the review. The reason for this is First, funding is not seen as necessary when the purchases have already been made. Second, purchases had been seen as a presumptuous

of external funding support travel themselves. The FRPB believes that younger faculty and disciplines with fewer options for external funding affected most by this decision.

