LAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Initiative

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences is offering a research initiative designed to encourage and assist LAS humanities faculty seeking to enhance their scholarly productivity and impact. The college will fund course releases awarded through a competitive process to support faculty in their scholarly work. Criteria for funding of LAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Initiative (HSEI) proposals will include evaluation of the merit of the research, its potential impact on scholarly productivity, and its alignment with one or more of the LAS College Signature Themes (http://www.las.iastate.edu/signature-themes/).

- The LAS College expects to fund 4 HSEI grants per year, each of which will provide funding for the actual teaching replacement cost of a semester-long, single-course release. The number of grants funded may be somewhat flexible, since the intent is to support highly competitive proposals and to provide maximum impact for the investment.
- A Departmental cost-share commitment for at least $1000 of professional development funding in support this specific effort must be committed by the chair of the investigator’s home department.
- LAS HSEI proposals will require an explanation of how the proposed research enhances one or more LAS Signature Themes, in addition to a description of and rationale for the potential impact of the supported scholarship on the investigator’s productivity and on the discipline.

Application Process

LAS HSEI proposals should be submitted by 5:00 pm February 1, 2018, to William Gutowski and Nolan McDonald. The application should be no more than three pages, single-spaced, using a 12 point font and one inch margins, and must include the following:

- **Name, rank and affiliation of investigator.** Provide the full name, academic rank, and organizational and departmental affiliation for the investigator, whose tenure home must be in the LAS College.

- **Justification and rationale.** Clearly describe the rationale for the proposed scholarly work, including the aims and objectives, as well as an explanation of how it will enhance the investigator’s scholarly productivity, the investigator’s long-term scholarly goals, and one or more LAS Signature Themes.

- **Chair confirmation, commitment, and estimated replacement cost.** Confirmation from the investigator’s academic chair must be provided (not included in the 3-page limit) verifying approval of the request for a course release, of the departmental commitment for at least $1000 professional development support for the project, and estimate the cost needed for replacement cost.

Only one HSEI application per investigator is permitted each year.

Review Criteria and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated and ranked according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrate meritorious research with a high potential for impact on productivity and on the discipline.
- Demonstrate the potential to enhance the long-term scholarly goals of the investigator.
• Demonstrate the potential to enhance one or more of the LAS Signature Themes.

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the LAS College administration, informed by reviews from knowledgeable scholars, and in consultation with the investigator’s department chair. Therefore, proposals should be written in a manner appropriate for reviewers representing all disciplines, including non-experts. Funding will be available for the FY18 academic year.

**Accomplishment Reports.**

Applicants receiving LAS HSEI funding must provide a report of accomplishments to the LAS Dean within 30 days following the end of the semester in which the course release occurs.

The reports should each include the following:

- Progress toward research productivity goals, including papers published and manuscripts submitted, presentations at conferences, etc.
- A concise (no more than 2 pages) narrative explaining progress in scholarly research. The narrative should include information on how the research is having disciplinary impact and advancing one or more of the LAS Signature Themes.

**Questions.**

Questions should be directed to Associate Dean William Gutowski, 294-4851. In addition, Dr. Gutowski will be available to discuss this opportunity and encourages individuals to contact him with ideas, questions, etc., by telephone or email, or to schedule an appointment.