

Eastern Illinois University
Faculty Development
Faculty Partnership Grants – Application

Applicant Information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project Questions

1. Provide a title and concise description of the project. Please include how the proposed project would contribute to the development of interdisciplinary teaching and research projects and partnerships.

Title: The EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group

In the Fall 2011 semester we will begin actively writing a book titled *What is Judicial Activism? A Debate on Legal and Political Philosophy*. This book (which is currently under review at Continuum Press) will be a back-and-forth debate on nine key questions of legal and political philosophy (see attached book proposal). In this debate [REDACTED] will be defending a broadly conservative / originalist position and [REDACTED] will be defending a broadly liberal / living-constitution position.

We plan to write this book in a unique way using what we are calling “collaborative student research.” We designed the book so as to allow for maximum student involvement in the research and writing. To organize this participation we will be working with [REDACTED] to start a group called the *EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group*. We expect to include students from not only philosophy, but also political science, history, legal studies, psychology, and sociology. We envision writing the book in a collaborative way with each section of the book being submitted to the entire research group by email, actively debated both in email and in person, rewritten to incorporate student ideas before being added to the final text. Then we hope to foster a vigorous group discussion about how the other person should respond. We will then be incorporating the results of this discussion into the text of the book. We also expect to meet fairly regularly with the group to discuss the sections of the book then being written by means of this dynamic process. We hope in this way to generate lively interdisciplinary debates geared towards the well-defined goal of finishing the book on schedule and submitting it to the publisher.

2. Provide a clear statement of the objectives of the project. Please include how the proposed project will accomplish the goals of the Faculty Partnership Grants.

The central goal of the project is to create an environment where high impact integrative learning can occur. We hope to encourage learning through student research, student-to-student discussion both within and between areas of study, and through faculty-to-student interactions. In doing so, we believe that the EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group will accomplish all of the central goals of the Faculty Partnership Grants. To demonstrate this claim we will address each of the goals of the program individually:

- *Develop creative/innovative interdisciplinary or integrative pedagogies as a mean of connecting and enhancing the learning experiences of students*

The EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group will involve students from many different departments with an interest in law, politics, or society and invite them to engage one another within a well-defined context and for a well-defined purpose. While engaging in this unique collaborative writing project, we expect students to both connect different courses together and reflect creatively on this material.

- *Strengthen cross-disciplinary and inter-departmental collaborations in scholarship, teaching, and learning*

The EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group will involve not only students from other departments, but faculty as well. Faculty from other departments will be involved in two ways. First, we will be asking for their input on questions outside our areas of expertise (e.g., legal history, the sociological impact of legal rulings, the psychological testimony in cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, etc.) Second, our students will be bringing what they have learned from class and conversation to this dynamic collaborative writing process.

- *Promote and integration of incorporation of diverse intellectual, social, and cultural perspectives into curricula*

The EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group will not be directly developing new courses, but we imagine that independent studies on diverse intellectual, social, and cultural perspectives may be fostered through the cross-pollination we hope to foster with this group.

- *Foster the development of integrative models of teaching and learning*

The EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group will be a unique vehicle for the integration of in-class work with the student's out-of-class life. By integrating diverse subjects and students in a coherent way, we hope to create (to use just a bit of jargon) a "cosmic" high-impact integrative experience. That is, an experience which gives students an opportunity to reflect on the "forest and not just the trees." We believe that students will be motivated and excited to know that one day their hard work will be rewarded when they will be able to buy a copy of the book in a local bookstore and see their work (and name) in print.

- *Facilitate the development of students learning outcomes in relation to integrative learning and the assessment of integrative teaching approaches*

The EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group will help in the assessment of effective integrative teaching approaches. Through this group we hope to be able to report on what works and what does not work. This information will be valuable in the development of future integrative learning projects both by us and by others.

3. *If the grant involves more than one applicant, provide a brief description of the role of each applicant in the proposed project.*

Professors [REDACTED] will be jointly authoring the book *What is Judicial Activism? A Debate on Legal and Political Philosophy* with the active involvement of many Eastern Illinois University students from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Professor [REDACTED] will be helping us to organize the EIU Legal Philosophy Research Group.

4. *Provide an itemized cost estimate for the proposed activity and include any other monies you may be expecting towards this project.*

We are applying for this grant to get seed money to help launch this project. We plan to spend the money in three ways. First, we will be using \$300.00 to buy subscriptions to academic journals, books not easily available, and to defer travel expenses (e.g., to visit the University of Illinois). Second, we plan to spend about \$200.00 to host two legal philosophy symposiums to launch the project (in August 2011)

and report on its first-year accomplishments (in April 2012). For these symposiums we may invite outside speakers or students to participate. Third, we plan to spend \$250.00 to pay for the necessities (e.g., food and drinks) of our regular meetings.

5. Provide a working schedule for completion.

We expect to begin organizing the group in August 2011. The book contract has been submitted the Continuum Press and we are optimistic that it will ultimately be accepted. If it is not accepted, then we have a number of backup publishers in mind (including, Springer, Palgrave, and Rowman and Littlefield.) We are confident that we will be under contract before August. We expect the project to extend over the course of about two years (four academic semesters.) This schedule will allow us to involve as many students as possible in collaborative research.