

CHHS Research and Scholarship Committee
Eastern Illinois University
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, December 16th, 2020
11:00AM

In attendance: Heidi, Lauri, Sue, Jeannie, Tony, Dean Ersin, Andrew

I. Research Awards Discussion

- Dean Ersin began with an overview of the budget process, including the difference between ledger 1, ledger 2, and ledger 5 funding.
- Dean Ersin provided a review of the amount (\$15,000) given to CHHS in 2019-2020 for professional development
- Dean Ersin explained that some departments, like CDS, have done a good job tapping into ledger 2 funds for professional development
- Dean Ersin encouraged faculty to work with their chairs to see if we have ledger 2 funding available (e.g. FOAPAL)
- Heidi explained that she would like to see CHHS do more to solicit donations from alumni. Such funds could be used to help support these kinds of research awards.
- Dean Ersin explained that she has worked with Ken Wetstein (EIU Advancement) and identified two main areas of funding need – scholarships for students and faculty development funds
- Dean Ersin noted that she will take the proposed research funding request (e.g. \$15,000-20,000 per year) to learn what kind of endowment would be needed for ongoing support
- Sue asked for further investigation and support, in the form of a grant-writer, to help pursue opportunities like the research money in the federal CARES Act
- Dean Ersin encouraged faculty to take advantage of the Redden Grants. This year there was \$16,000 available and the project requests were for only \$13,000. All submitted proposals were approved.
- Dean Ersin mentioned the possibility of holding back Redden Grant money (or allocating unused Redden Grant funds) for advancing critical initiatives at the College level. This is allowed.
- Dean Ersin noted that holding back Redden Grant funds for faculty development is not allowed because it does not align with the grant donor's terms and stipulations.
- Dean Ersin mentioned that she shared our proposal with the CHHS chairs. The chairs had some trepidation over creating additional awards, especially if such awards were not guaranteed funding year

after year. There were related concerns about offering an award with no funding attached.

- The committee echoed these sentiments, saying they would not want to just offer another certificate. However, it was noted that the awards in the proposal are for research and thus not the same.
- Sue asked about reaching to alumni. The Dean noted that she is in the process of doing so, including working with Ken Wetstein.
- Relatedly, Dean Ersin said that a CHHS Advisory Board is being formed with representatives from all departments. There will be several subcommittees (e.g. fundraising, friendraising, alumni).
- Jeannie asked about the potential for doing a partial list of awards – perhaps one or two from each category with an approximate total of \$5,000. Dean Ersin said she would ask, but stated that due to the budget situation the answer would likely be no. Dean Ersin asked what the committee’s priorities for funding would be at this stage, and several committee members said research involving students.
- Tony asked whether the group would like to see two additional college-level awards: one for research and the other for service. These would pair with the Hanner Teaching Excellence Award. The committee was supportive, and noted a minimum of \$500 award for each should be required.
- Dean Ersin noted that Nursing has drawn a lot of interest. And when agencies in the community look to partner with nursing she makes sure that they understand any gifts/grants would be used to benefit the whole college, not just Nursing. For example, a recent \$30,000 grant for a simulation center will be available for Nursing as well as Interprofessional Education (IPE) from across the college.
- Dean Ersin asked for suggestions on how to make the Special CU Pool more attractive to faculty? She noted she hates to turn the CUs back to the general pool. Suggestions included publicizing it more, including a meeting beforehand that all CHHS faculty would be invited to.
- Dean Ersin discussed the Illinois Innovation Network and the opportunity in those grants for faculty buyouts. She learned that EIU does not have formal process for doing so, but she is familiar with them from a previous institution. We have the CU release, but it was acknowledged that this is not the same thing. It was noted this would be worth exploring further.
- Dean Ersin asked for other ways to help faculty, especially new faculty. Sue suggested a journal club or IPE club. The Dean said she was intrigued, but also noted she did not want to put more on faculty. She said a faculty champion would need to step forward. The Dean awaits a proposal for such a project/initiative.
- The Dean thanked the committee for the memo.