

Call for proposals for interdisciplinary bridging projects and bridging courses

With support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Mellon Foundation, there are opportunities for faculty to work collaboratively on development of interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. The opportunities described here include participating as a student in another faculty member's course (bridging projects, with course release) and team teaching courses (bridging courses, favored by HHMI). Note that this document only addresses these two efforts that involve using external resources for supplemental staffing and that there is significant support for other faculty development as described on the Dean's office webpage (<http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/dean/supfac/>). Due to the complexity of administering these projects please understand additional information may be requested after receipt of the application.

Eligibility and Selection

These opportunities are intended to build upon a faculty member's established record of teaching and scholarship at Grinnell College in ways that are appropriate considering the career stage and priorities of the faculty member. All faculty are eligible to apply for projects that will be conducted after his or her successful complete review.

Evaluation and administration of the requests will be coordinated by the deans' office. As demanded by the nature of the request, other individuals and/or faculty committees may be consulted. Prioritization of proposals will be based upon likely impact of the project, curricular need and feasibility.

General requirements

- Send an electronic copy of your application to Angie Story and cc a copy to your department chair. To be assured of full consideration, submit proposals on or before Wednesday, October 21, 2009.
- Identify the preferred semester (Fall 2010-Spring 2012) for the course and list any alternatives, if possible.
- Describe the value of the activity to your teaching and/or research. Consider this within the context of your career stage and goals such as developing your record of scholarship and teaching as relevant to events such as merit and promotion reviews.
- Indicate which of your regular courses most likely will not be taught during the year of your project.
- Confirm that you have discussed this request with your department chair.
- Indicate your commitment to assessment of this activity (e.g., use of a questionnaire).
- If you are applying for more than one project, please prioritize the projects.
- If you submitted a bridging request last year, please just confirm your continued interest and that you have recently communicated with your department chair.

Specific requirements

Bridging projects

- Describe the likely impact of this project, considering that the assignment of a course release to this project should allow you time to both take the course and to work on related curricular development and possibly scholarship.
- Confirm with the host department that the course will be taught when you plan on taking it and that you have consulted with the likely instructor.

Bridging courses (single application per course, from participating faculty)

- Include a proposed course title, level (i.e. 100-300), enrollment cap, brief description, and prerequisites if any.
- Describe the interdisciplinary nature of the course and how the learning goals of the proposed course augment or overlap those of the current curriculum.
- Indicate whether co-instructors plan on working at equivalent levels or if an alternative such as a “lead” instructor receiving one course equivalent and a secondary course instructor receiving 0.5 course equivalents is proposed.
- Note that funding is contingent on course approval through regular channels.