

Faculty Benefits Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2023

Zoom; 3:15pm

Members present: Charlisa Daniels (Chair), Suk-Hee Kim, Joseph Mester, Sharyn Jones, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Adam White, Gary Sczerbaning, Shahid Noor, Mahdi Yazdanpour, Lili Ma, Donna Smith, Ty Brumback, Dhanuja Kasturiratna, Michael DiCicco, Brittany Sorrell, Junko Agnew, Rebecca Elkins, (Grace Hiles)

Call to Order – 3:17pm

Agenda- The agenda was unanimously adopted.

Minutes from 10.4.23 meeting were approved.

Discussion of Summer Fellowship Applications: The discussion began with the fact that the Provost budgeted for 11 summer fellowships available and 19 applications were filed. Those that scored in the top 11 from the subcommittee rankings and discussions are recommended for award. The subcommittee recommended that the chair make clear that all applications were acceptable for funding, should funding become available beyond the prescribed budget. The Benefits committee held a vote via zoom and a quorum approved the ranked list recommended by summer fellowship subcommittee.

Discussion of Project Grant Applications: The discussion began with the fact that the Provost budgeted for \$66,000 available with nearly \$93,000 requested. The top 13 applications were recommended for full funding, up to the \$6,000 limit for a total of \$65,977. The Chair suggested recommending the next application to exhaust the allotted budget, even though that would result in a request that would be overbudget. After discussion, the committee at large voted to seek additional funding to support 1 more project grant which would bring the total to \$71,977. The subcommittee also acknowledged that the remaining applications were acceptable for funding, should more funding become available. The Benefits committee at large approved the ranked list recommended by the project grant subcommittee.

Discussion of Sabbatical Applications: The discussion began with the fact that the Handbook calculation allows 21 available sabbatical awards and this cycle saw 17 applications. 14 applications were deemed unanimously acceptable by the subcommittee. The remaining 3 applications were discussed, led by the Chair of the subcommittee. However, no consensus could be reached. The Chair will review the remaining 3 applications, taking into account the comments of the subcommittee and at large committee. The Benefits committee at large unanimously approved ranked list of 14 recommended by sabbatical subcommittee. The Committee at large voted to allow the decision of the remaining 3 to be up to the Chair's discretion.*

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:01pm.

**Chair's amendment: The result of the additional consideration of the 3 remaining sabbatical applications was that 2 of the 3 applications were ultimately recommended for funding. This information was sent to the Benefits Committee members via email on November 27. The Chair collated and sent these results and materials to the Provost & Cabinet on November 29, 2023.*