

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### **Faculty Senate Finance Committee January 22, 2020**

Present members: Bill Faraclas, Carol Stewart.

1. Invitations were sent to Ajay Chhabra (Financial Information Systems Support Specialist/Budget and Planning) and Anna Rivera-Alfaro (Coordinator of Accounts Payable, which houses the Travel Office) to attend the Finance Committee's February 5 meeting. Replies are awaited.
2. Initial information to be sought regarding combined CBA travel fund and Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund for each of the past five years:
  - Amount of funds allocated between contractually designated amount (CBA travel fund) and Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund.
  - The number of FT and PT faculty members supported annually by the combined CBA travel fund and the Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund.
  - The average amount allocated to each trip (FT and PT).
  - The number (if any) of members (FT and PT) not supported because funds were exhausted.
  - The amount of rollover funds included in funding for each of the past five years and the current year.

Bill Faraclas will gather preliminary information.

3. Initial information to be sought regarding Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants for the past five years:
  - The number of applications.
  - Proportion of applications by school/college.
  - Proportion of applications recommended for funding.
  - Proportion of applications funded.
  - Proportion of applications funded, by school/college.

Carol Stewart will gather preliminary information.

4. To be able to understand the full picture of travel support, the Finance Committee would like to understand additional sources of travel funding provided by the academic deans and the Provost. A member of the Committee (TBD) will gather preliminary information.
5. The Finance Committee has heard anecdotal suggestions that some travel authorization (TA) requests may have been "denied" by department chairs or deans because requesters were not presenting at the conferences they planned to attend. To preclude further rumors (or inappropriate actions) the Finance Committee will recommend to the Faculty Senate the distribution of a clarifying statement to all members of the faculty and the academic deans

and Provost that presents the contractual basis for CBA-mandated travel funding being intended for members to attend meetings, without specific participation requirements. The Committee will request initial consideration of this recommendation by the FS Executive Committee.

**CBA 9.5.1** From the amount appropriated for the purposes enumerated in Article 12.10.1, funds may be allotted for members for attendance at professional seminars, workshops, conferences or educational exchanges.

**CBA 9.5.5** Unreasonable denial of a member's requests to attend workshop/conferences may be appealed to the President or designee.

6. The Finance Committee wishes to present two exploratory questions to the Faculty Senate to ascertain the level of support for developing proposals for:
  - a. A new model for funding Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants. Currently, those grants are given only in the form of a stipend. Stipends are taxable income (regardless of how they are used), upon which SCSU has to pay fringe benefits, which reduces the number of grants available. If the FS favors the development of a model with expanded options, the Finance Committee will develop a proposal for Senate consideration.
  - b. A new deadline for Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants applications. Presently, FCARG applications are due about four weeks into the academic year (around the beginning of October) when faculty members are getting settled in to new classes and putting final touches on P&T and sabbatical files. Awards are announced at the beginning of December, but the performance period for selected applications is July 1- June 30. It would be possible to establish a later FCARG application deadline, say by one month or so, that would remove the competition for attention (time) between the FCARG process and the completion of P&T and sabbatical applications.

These minutes have not been approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Faraclas