

UMBC RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

Academic Year 2008-2009

Purpose

The purpose of the UMBC Research Fellows Program is to encourage outstanding scholarship and creativity at UMBC by permitting release time for faculty, for one semester, to devote full time to their scholarly work. Fellows will be relieved of teaching duties for one semester during academic year 2008-2009 in order to pursue a proposed research program. Each Fellow's academic department will be compensated \$6,000 for the faculty member's release time.

Eligibility

The Program is open to all full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty. Participation is subject to approval by the department chair.

Criteria

Likelihood that the award will have a significant impact on the faculty member's program of scholarship or research. Consistent with this criterion, preference will be given to faculty members who need support to complete an important project. For tenure-track faculty, priority will be given to those who are nearing their tenure review and whose likelihood of achieving tenure would be significantly enhanced by the fellowship. For tenured faculty, priority will be given to (1) faculty who are preparing for promotion to full professor; (2) faculty with a history of extramural funding for whom the fellowship could provide support to seek additional outside funding; (3) faculty who are competing for prestigious externally funded awards and fellowships; and (4) faculty who are shifting directions in their scholarship or research and for whom the fellowship would support their transition. (50 points)

Likelihood that the work proposed for the fellowship period can be completed. Preference will be given to proposals that outline a realistic and feasible set of objectives to be accomplished during the fellowship period. The proposed project may, however, represent a portion of a larger project (e.g., completion of one or two chapters of a book). (30 points)

Proposal and Application Packet. Proposals should be written with attention to the instructions below and submitted in the requested format by the specified due date. Given the wide variety of disciplines in which proposals may be received, reviewers will not be asked to judge the scholarly merit of the proposed project, per se. Nevertheless, the proposed project should be described so as to be understandable by reviewers with little background in the area of proposed study. The proposal should be well organized, well-written, and persuasive. (20 points)

Application Process

To apply, faculty members should forward the following items to the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs by Friday, January 4, 2008:

1. A Cover Sheet (attached).
2. A proposal of **about 750 words or three** double-spaced pages. The proposal should provide a description of activities to be performed, a clear and concise statement of goals and expected outcomes, and an explanation of the impact of fellowship support on the faculty member's program of research or scholarship.
3. A current curriculum vitae.

4. A letter of support from the Department Chair. If more than one proposal is submitted from a department, the Chair should rank the proposals and provide a rationale for the ranking to assist the Award Committee in its review.

Selection

The Provost will appoint a faculty Award Committee to review the applications and provide him with their recommendations. In evaluating the proposals, the Committee will be guided by the weights given to the three selection criteria. The Committee will make recommendations to the Provost, including the rationale for its selections, by February 1, 2008.

It is expected that four awards will be made, two to tenure-track and two to tenured faculty members. This allocation of awards is dependent upon on the number and quality of the proposals received and may be modified upon recommendation of the Award Committee. Final selections will be made by the Provost.

Fellowship Report

Fellows will submit a report of their accomplishments during the fellowship period to the Provost by the first day of the semester following their leave.

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Cover Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Department: _____

Current Rank: _____ Assistant Prof. _____ Associate Prof. _____ Professor

Tenure Status: _____ Tenured _____ Tenure-Track

1. If awarded, when would the fellowship be taken? (Indicate 1st and 2nd choices, if you wish.)

_____ Fall 2008 _____ Spring 2009

2. If there are special considerations concerning the timing of the fellowship award, please explain: