Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) Workshop

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December 2, 2022
FRACAA Workshop

- Overview of FRACAA, including deadlines, eligibility, and award conditions
- Budget, including limits, fundable activities, and restrictions
- Proposal components
- Proposal evaluation criteria
Overview
Goals of FRACAA:
• encourage and support faculty in research, scientific inquiry, original artistic activity and inventive technology
• increase external funding at WMU in support of faculty scholarship

Award limit:
• FRACAA awards are made up to a maximum of $15,000 (increased from $10,000)

Funding:
• Current budget allows for funding of @12-15 proposals
• Historic awardee success rate is @40%-50%
Important Dates

• FRACAA submissions accepted for 2022-23 cycle as of December 1, 2022, at https://wmich.infoready4.com

• Submission deadline: February 10, 2023

• Award notification: by end of April 2023

• Project year: June 15, 2023 - June 14, 2024

• Project report: due within 90 days from end of award period
Eligibility

- Board-appointed faculty (members of the bargaining unit) at time FRACAA proposals are due

- Applicant whose WMU appointment terminates prior to or during program year of award implementation may submit an application, but shall not receive an award until they have an appointment at WMU covering program year

- Previous FRACAA awardees are eligible once they have satisfied requirements of prior award (poster, final report, and external proposal; there is no longer a 3-year waiting period)

- FRACAA Research Screening Committee members are ineligible
**Award Conditions**

FRACAA awardees are required to:

• present a progress report mid-way through the project period and a satisfactory final report within 90 days after the award period

• present their findings at the annual Research and Creative Activities Poster Day within one year from end of the project

• submit a proposal to external funding source within 18 months of the end of their award period
Typical Budget Categories

- Faculty release time (during the academic year only)
- Student research assistance or student help
- Travel to conduct project activities
- Supplies
- Equipment
- Professional Services
Budget Restrictions

• Faculty salary

• Tuition or other education expenses

• Projects solely for student research and creative activities

• Travel for the sole purpose of presenting research and creative activity

• Professional services in violation of above budget restrictions

• Budget requests that exceed the FRACAA $15,000 limit
Proposal Components

• Proposals are submitted under one methodological category: quantitative sciences, qualitative scholarly, or creative arts

• Proposals shall be written for general faculty comprehension

• Proposals consist of the following sections:
  ❖ *proposal narrative* (7 pages max, 12pt font, 1” margins, must NOT contain applicant’s name)
  ❖ *budget worksheet and justification* (2 pages max, must use form provided)
  ❖ *references list* (from proposal narrative; no page limit)
  ❖ *other supporting documents* (only if absolutely necessary to illustrate project can be completed; 2 pages max)
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

• FRACAA grants are awarded solely on the basis of eligibility and proposal merit

• FRACAA proposals are evaluated on the following criteria:
  
  ❖ Merit of the proposed activity
  
  ❖ Context of the project
  
  ❖ Project procedure and planning
Merit of the Proposed Activity

• Proposal advances new hypotheses, research questions, art forms or modes of exhibition

• There is a clear rationale

• Proposed activity is well conceived and organized

• Based on its merit, the proposal has the potential to secure external funding
Context of the Project

• Proposal is clearly written for an audience of peers and professionals, yet non-specialist

• Proposal makes a strong case that activity will make a meaningful contribution within its own field

• Activity will address a broad scholarly issue

• Adequately describes steps to be taken in order to secure external funding
Project Procedure and Planning

• Methods are clearly stated and appropriate for proposal

• Timeline is clear (be explicit)

• Data analysis/evaluation is planned and appropriate

• Proposal details access to appropriate resources, equipment, facilities needed to complete activity

• Costs for the proposed budget are clearly itemized and justified (using university guidelines when available)
Additional Support

• The FRACAA website provides detailed information on submission requirements and all other aspects of FRACAA: https://wmich.edu/research/funding/internal/fracaa

• FRACAA applicants have access to a Mentors Program, including quick reads and suggestions on your proposal

• Please direct any questions to Mark and/or Christine