Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA)

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Roadmap

• What is FRACAA and who may receive the award
• Your commitment after receiving the FRACAA award
• Budget. What you can and can’t do with FRACAA funds
• General overview of the proposal
• Parts of the proposals and how they get evaluated
Overview

• Goals:
  - encourage and support faculty in research, original artistic activity, and inventive technology.
  - increase external funding at WMU.
• Grants shall be awarded up to a maximum of $10,000.00
• The current budget allows for funding of ~18 proposals
• The historic success rate is ~40% - 50%
Deadlines

• Submission deadline: 4 February 2022
• Awards announcement by April 2022
• Project report deadline within 90 days from the end of award period.
Eligibility

• board-appointed faculty

• applicant whose appointment at WMU terminates prior to or during the program year of award implementation may submit an application, but shall not receive an award until she/he has an appointment at WMU covering the program year of implementation

• Previous FRACAA awardees and co-PIs are eligible every third year following the latest award

• No FRACAA Research Screening Committee member is eligible
Awardees are required to:

• submit proposal(s) to an external funding source(s) within 18 months of the end of their award period

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

• Present a progress report mid-way through the project period and a final report within 90 days after the award period.
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**
Not allowed in budget

• 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 budget restrictions
Proposal components

• Proposals are submitted under one of three categories: quantitative sciences, qualitative scholarly, and creative arts.
• Proposals shall be written for general faculty comprehension.
• A proposal consists of the following sections:
  - proposal narrative (maximum of 7 pages, 12pt font, 1” margins, must NOT contain the applicant’s name)
  - budget worksheet and justification (maximum of 2 pages, form provided)
  - references
  - other supporting documents only if absolutely necessary
Proposal evaluation 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 & appropriate for the proposal.
• Timeline is clear (make it explicit!).
• Data analysis/evaluation is planned & appropriate.
• Proposal details access to appropriate resources, equipment, facilities needed to complete activity.
• The costs for the proposed budget are clearly itemized and justified (using university guidelines when available).
Additional support

• Please direct any questions to me and/or Kay
• We have a Mentors group available for additional guidance, including quick reads and suggestions on your proposal