

College of Arts & Sciences – Dean’s Discretionary Fund Task Force Proposal

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Task Force Participants

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Recommendations

The Task Force recommends that the Dean’s Discretionary Fund be used to support the professional advancement of faculty, lecturers, and graduate students in the following areas:

- Conference presentations
- Research-related costs (transcription, translation, rights management fees, etc.)
- Professional development, training, or certification
- Special projects benefiting the college
- Outreach to the FM community, state, or region

This expands our traditional funding approach to include all three areas of professional expectations (research, teaching, and service) along with community impact. When applying for funds, applicants should explain how their request aligns with the evaluation criteria in their department’s PTE document or graduate handbook. For community impact, applicants should include a letter from their department chair/head or community partner attesting to the impact.

The Task Force recommends prioritizing funding requests based on:

- Career stage – more funding for faculty/lecturers early in their careers at NDSU, with assistant professors receiving the most funding and full professors receiving the least, noting that this prioritization by rank is inclusive of professors of practice
- Availability of other funding sources – more funding for those without start-up package funding or grant funding available

Based on the principles outlined above, eligibility for funding would be as follows:

Assistant Professor (including of Practice)	Up to \$1000
Associate Professor (including of Practice)	Up to \$750
Professor (including of Practice)	Up to \$500
Full-time Lecturer or Graduate Student	Up to \$250

Commented [1]: Assistant (46) - \$46,000
Associate (83) - \$62,250
Full (87) - \$43,500
Lecturers (20) - \$7,500
Total - \$159,250

This calculation assumes everyone in the college asks for the full amount and has no start-up or grant funding (which we know is not the case) but does not account for graduate students. The question is whether we believe the likely percentage of college fund usage is low enough to extend sufficient funding to graduate students.

Commented [2]: According to our preliminary research, AHSS usually set aside \$50-60K for funding conference travel. And usually gave out around \$40-50K each year (roughly 50 applicants per year).

Illustration: An assistant professor of practice with no grant funding and no money remaining in a start-up package would be eligible for \$1,000 from the college.

The Task Force recommends *not* requiring departments to match the amount of funding the college provides (past practice in one of the prior state colleges), as departments have varying discretionary and F&A fund levels. Departments should prioritize their funding distributions based on funding levels and program priorities.

The Task Force recommends setting aside 50% of the amount allotted for the year to funding requests submitted in the fall semester, with 50% reserved for requests made during the spring semester. This approach will account for conferences, professional development, and outreach opportunities in different disciplines occurring at different times of the year.