

Summer 2010 Working Groups on Curriculum and Pedagogy
Call for Proposals

Application Deadline: April 30, 2010

Submit to: acadaffs@bowdoin.edu

The Dean's office will once again offer limited funding to support faculty working groups engaged in curricular and pedagogical development this summer (June 1 – August 15). These funds are provided to encourage new initiatives by departments and programs as well as by individual faculty members collaborating with other Bowdoin colleagues. Proposals may be from department chairs and program directors or from other groups of faculty members drawn from different departments and programs.

Potential working groups eligible for this funding might focus on, for example: innovative approaches to teaching introductory level courses, quantitative reasoning elements incorporated into existing or new courses, development of interdisciplinary teaching opportunities, preparation for an external review in your department, etc. Please note that these summer working group funds will not be used to support research and travel for individual course development; such proposals should be directed to the Faculty Development Committee.

Proposal guidelines:

Proposals should be no more than 1-2 pages and should outline the problem or topic to be addressed, the format and time period for completion of the proposed work, participants who would be involved, the expected time commitment of those involved, and the hoped-for outcomes. Proposals must include a detailed budget, including the number of participants, number of days of activity, and any additional expenses. Faculty in working groups that meet between June 1st and August 15th are eligible for stipends of \$200/day. A written report will be expected from each summer working group by September 1st.

Proposals are due by **April 30th** and should be submitted electronically to: acadaffs@bowdoin.edu. The dean's office will review proposals in terms of the potential to strengthen curriculum and pedagogy at the college and in departments and programs. We will also consider the costs of proposed projects in the context of limited availability of resources and may suggest alternative ways of approaching the issues that the proposal addresses.

Other Working Group Opportunities:

A few summer working groups have already been scheduled for this summer. Faculty interested in joining one or more of these groups should contact the group organizer.

- **Curriculum Assessment**
 - **First-year seminars**
 - **VPA requirement**

Contact: Nancy Jennings (njenning@bowdoin.edu)

This summer we will begin working on a comprehensive and systematic assessment of the general education curriculum, funded in part by the Davis Foundation. Two groups will meet this summer: one focusing on first-year seminars and the other on the VPA distribution requirement. Each group will review course syllabi, discuss various assessment tools or models and develop or modify the tools for use in courses.

It is anticipated that the groups will meet for 4-5 days, probably in early August. Faculty who teach VPA courses or first-year seminars are encouraged to apply. You can apply for one or both of the working groups.

- **Academic Department Chair Handbook**

Contact: Bill VanderWolk (wvanderw@bowdoin.edu)

A small group of professors will be writing an on-line handbook for department chairs that not only outlines the college's expectations but gives in-depth information about every aspect of a chair's responsibilities. These include writing a budget, leading searches, overseeing reappointment and tenure cases, working with the department coordinator, and supervising the daily workings of the department. The handbook will be an easy-to-use resource in which chairs can find answers to their questions, including specific information for new chairs.

- **Responsible Conduct of Research**

Contact: Cristle Collins Judd (cjudd@bowdoin.edu)

New federal regulations require institutions receiving National Science Foundation funding to have a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. This group will meet this summer to develop a training workshop for students supported by NSF, as well as any other students receiving a summer or academic year research fellowship.

- **First Year Reading**

Contact: Suzanne Lovett (slovett@bowdoin.edu)

This year, after consultation with a cross-section of faculty and staff, we decided to take a one-year hiatus in the first-year book program. Among the questions the group will examine: Why do we have a first-year book program and what are its goals? Who is responsible for selecting the reading and what is the appropriate process? What type of programming should occur beyond the discussion groups in orientation and who develops, plans, and implements it? What level of faculty participation is appropriate in a first-year book program? How will the first-year book program be evaluated to ensure that it is meeting its goals?