

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

To: The Faculty
From: Cristle Collins Judd
Date: March 5, 2008
Subject: Summer Working Groups on Curriculum and Pedagogy

The College has a small pool of resources to support curricular and pedagogical development activities. For the past several years, the dean's office has made some of these funds available to encourage new initiatives by departments and programs as well as by individual faculty members collaborating with other colleagues in working groups. Faculty have made effective use of these resources in the past, often in ways that have resulted in important changes in teaching and curriculum.

In continuing this tradition, I now invite proposals for new working groups related to curriculum and pedagogical development for the summer of 2008. Proposals may be from department chairs and program directors or other groups of faculty members drawn from different departments and programs.

Proposals might focus, for example, on reconfiguring the major program, developing courses for distribution requirements, developing programs that relate to teaching of writing across the curriculum, adding or reinforcing components of quantitative reasoning, developing capstone and student research opportunities, creating re-integrative experiences for study-away students, exploring opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching, examining additional possibilities for introductory courses, or incorporating more problem-based teaching into courses.

Funds might be employed in a variety of ways – modest stipends for faculty, support for outside consultants, or funding for departmental “retreats” or other uses. These funds will not be used, however, to support research and travel for individual course development; proposals to that end should be directed to the Faculty Resources Committee.

Proposals should be no more than 1-2 pages and should outline the problem or topic to be addressed, the activities anticipated, 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 should also include an estimated budget including the number of participants, number of days of activity, and any additional expenses. I suggest you plan for small blocks of time (several days or partial days for up to a week, rather than larger blocks). Participants in working groups that meet between June 1st and August 22nd are eligible for stipends of \$200/day. A brief written report or relevant proposal will be expected from each working group or workshop.

Proposals are due by **March 28th** 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.