

Dr. Alan Freitag,
President, Faculty Council
UNC Charlotte

Dear Dr. Freitag,

As you know, because of the state budget crisis, the Provost was not able to fully fund the 2010-2011 Faculty Research Grants (FRG) Program. Traditionally, the FRG Committee (FRGC) has had \$400,000 to disburse in 2 competitions: \$330,000 for a fall competition open to tenure-track and tenured faculty of all ranks and \$70,000 for a spring competition open to first- and second-year assistant professors who submitted an application in the fall round but did not receive funding. In previous years the committee has received around 120 proposals in the fall and between 10-25 in the spring. In the past, between 40-50% of proposals received all or part of the funding requested.

This year, the FRGC has \$70,000 for the fall competition. This amount of money is likely to fund between 10-12 awards. We have been told to prepare a "waiting list" for a second \$70,000 in the spring semester, but we have also been told that it is likely that this second pot of money will not be available, particularly if the state economic situation does not improve.

Because of this reduction in funds, **the FRGC voted to limit this year's applicant pool to first- and second-year untenured faculty (assistant and associate professors) who have not previously received FRG funding.** This action was taken at a meeting of the FRGC on September 3, 2009. The consensus was that with limited funds available, it is most important to provide our newest faculty with seed money for their research. **The FRGC voted not to reduce the award amount; however, the committee voted to disallow joint proposals this year. Single applicants will be able to ask for up to \$6,000. Up to \$3,500 of that amount may be requested for a faculty stipend. These changes affect only the 2010-2011 FRG Program.**

The Faculty Research Grants Committee requests that the Faculty Executive Committee take a motion to Faculty Council to approve this change in the guidelines. We would like to emphasize that this change is for this year only.

Respectfully submitted,
Ahmed Arif
College of Health and Human Services Representative to the FRGC

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