

Sept. 30, 2008

Graduate Student Research Grant Proposal

The two Regent Professors have created a \$3,000 a year fund primarily designed to support graduate student research, although funds could also be available to new professors who have yet to undergo their third-year review. Each of the Regent professors has contributed \$1,500 from their endowment.

The \$1,500 from each of the Regent Professors would be used to support research concerning areas relevant to their endowments. That is, funds would be available to fund Hispanic, international or convergent research. Convergent media, as defined by the our doctoral program is “the study of message content, message effect and simultaneous message delivery through multiple media as those variables change, interact and change one another.”

Procedure

Graduate students interested in receiving funds would need to submit a three-page grant proposal. The first two pages would consist of a narrative describing the project, discussing its significance and how the funds would be spent, and providing expected outcomes (e.g. used to support thesis or dissertation work, presented at a specific conference, etc.). The third page would be a budget page explaining how the funds would be spent. In addition, if applicable, students must attach their Human Subjects approval sheet. An electronic copy of the grant proposal can be downloaded from the Mass Communication Graduate program website.

Listed below are the specific requirements of the graduate research grants:

1. There is a rolling deadline for applications. Students can begin submitting grant applications on October 1 and the final deadline is May 1. After April 15th, assistant professors who have not undergone their third-year review would be eligible for funding.
2. While there is a rolling deadline, graduate students are asked to send an e-mail to Tom Johnson by Dec. 1 to indicate whether they plan to submit a proposal sometime during the year. This will better help us with planning.
3. To be eligible to be considered for funding a research project, students must have received human subjects approval (if applicable). To be eligible for funding for a thesis or dissertation, students must have successfully defended their proposal.
4. Priority will be given to funds that help a graduate student begin or sustain a research project, such as moderate equipment or supplies cost, the cost of conducting a survey, or travel costs to conduct the research.
5. Travel costs to present a paper at a conference would be a lesser priority as funds are already available from College sources to fund student travel. Travel funds to present papers at a conference would only be available to the individual presenting the paper.
6. Priority will be given to doctoral students over master's students. If funds still remain, assistant professors that have yet to undergo third-year review would be eligible for funding.
7. The maximum amount that any graduate student could receive for a specific grant proposal is \$500. However, students would not be prevented from submitting more than one proposal.
8. Grant recipients would be required within nine months of receiving the grant to present either results or research progress at a Brown Bag meeting or other appropriate local venue. Failure to do so will negatively impact the committee's evaluation of any subsequent applications by the student.