

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Office of the Provost

TO: The Lafayette Faculty
FROM: John Meier, Provost
DATE: August 7, 2023
RE: Support Available to Faculty Members

The Office of the Provost provides a range of grants and funding opportunities to support the full scope of faculty professional development. With the start of the 2023-24 academic year, we encourage you to review opportunities to request support for curricular and pedagogical development and for faculty research.

1. Support Directly through the Provost's Office

Interested faculty members should submit requests online for the following funding opportunities via this form: [Request for Support from the Office of the Provost](#). The form can also be found on the Provost's Office website under "Information, Forms, Lists."

In many cases we will ask for an evaluation and endorsement of the project by the Department Head or Program Chair once the request has been received.

ASSESSMENT GRANTS

These grants support the purchase of assessment related materials, development of a new assessment initiative, or attendance and participation in assessment workshops in order to improve student learning in their courses or programs. For more information, contact *Markus Dubischar*, Associate Provost.

CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT

The Academic Deans or the Provost's Office may be able to provide support for curriculum development projects. As examples, these grants have supported projects coordinated with the Landis Center in the Easton Community as well as class trips to cultural centers in New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere in the region. For more information, contact *Markus Dubischar*, Associate Provost.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVE GRANTS

These grants support initiatives aiming to revise courses or pedagogy in order to achieve a more inclusive curriculum or aiming to support diversity, equity, and inclusion more broadly. For more information, contact *Lauren Anderson*, Jeffers Dean of Engineering.

PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Through the Center for the Integration of Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, we are able to provide support for pedagogical development projects. For more information, contact *Tracie Addy*, Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning.

Recipients of funding from the Office of the Provost are expected to submit a brief report of the results of the project.

2. Support of Academic Research

The Faculty Affairs and Resources Committee is responsible for allocating most of Lafayette's internal research funding, including all five of the items listed below. See the College's [Research Support](#) website for more information about these opportunities, application deadlines, and application forms. For further questions, please contact *Ingrid Furniss*, Interim Dean of the Faculty and Dean of Arts and Humanities.

EXCEL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Under Lafayette's EXCEL Scholars Program, with generous additional funding from the Bergh Family Foundation, a full-time faculty member may apply for one or more student collaborator(s) to help with their research.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

Under Lafayette's Research Assistants Program, a faculty member may apply for a student assistant to help with research in a more limited fashion than is expected for an EXCEL Scholar.

FACULTY RESEARCH AND ADVANCED STUDY GRANTS

Research Grants may cover expenses such as equipment, supplies, specialized library materials (including microfilm and database search costs), and travel for research. Advanced Study Grants are awarded to assist faculty in developing an enhanced research expertise in their own field or a related area of advanced study. Awards may cover travel and tuition expenses for faculty who attend an institute, conference, short course, or program of summer study (not in conjunction with work toward a degree).

PREPARATION/PUBLICATION/PRODUCTION (PPP) GRANTS

PPP Grants may cover some costs associated with the preparation of scholarly works. Examples of things that these awards might cover include: the cost of professional indexing or reproduction rights for images; the recording of performance works for the production of a CD; or charges that are routinely requested by a refereed journal or publisher, such as open access fees.

FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Two competitive Faculty Research Fellowship programs, one established by the Richard King Mellon Foundation in 1963 and the other established by Walter A. '59 and Catherine R. Scott in 2016, provide \$5,000 in professional development funds to support faculty research over a two-year period.

3. Additional Forms of Available Support

Additional forms of support are briefly described below.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Faculty interested in applying for external support for their research should discuss opportunities with the Director of Sponsored Programs and seek assistance with grant and fellowship proposals, including proposals related to enhanced sabbaticals and research leaves. For information on assistance securing external funding, please consult the [Sponsored Research](#) page and contact *Mary Ellen Jackson*, Director of Sponsored Research if you have ideas for proposals or any questions about the process.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR

Faculty who wish to develop a First-Year Seminar are eligible for a \$3,200 course development grant, which is paid with the expectation that the new course be taught at least twice. Such a grant comprises a \$600 stipend that is conditional upon attendance at the fall workshops on writing pedagogy organized by the College Writing Program. The remaining \$2,600 of the grant are paid in two installments, each preceding the respective first two offerings of the course. In addition, faculty teaching in the First-Year Seminar Program have available a \$950 budget to be spent for course development (e.g., to purchase books or other materials, not to exceed a total of \$300), and for co-curricular activities, for an amount not to exceed the \$950 budget minus any funds that are used for course development. Faculty wishing to discuss possible courses before

applying should contact Professor *Bianca Falbo*, Director of the First-Year Seminar Program.

COURSE AFFORDABILITY INITIATIVE

The Course Affordability Initiative encourages the use of alternatives to expensive textbooks and course materials at Lafayette. The program supports faculty who want to lower costs for their students by providing grants of up to \$1,000 and assistance for adopting low-cost or freely available alternatives (such as Open Educational Resources), reworking course syllabi, or creating new free materials. More information is available at the Library's website about [Course Affordability and OERs](#). For more information, contact *Ben Jahre*, Head of Electronic Resources, Skillman Library .

INFORMATION LITERACY GRANTS

Information Literacy Grants (\$1,500), sponsored by the Provost's Office and the College Libraries, are given out each spring to faculty who wish to add an information literacy component to one of their upper-level classes. The goal of these grants is to encourage faculty to develop classes in which students have repeated opportunities to build information literacy skills and learn how information is created, disseminated, and organized in a discipline. For more information, contact *Lijuan Xu*, Acting Director of Research and Instructional Services.

RESEARCH LEAVES

To each Assistant Professor, the College makes available a one-semester research leave normally following the mid-term review. See the *Faculty Handbook*, Chapter 6, Section 6.1.15.2 for further information and contact *Marlene Vant Hoogt*, Executive Assistant to the Provost if you have any questions.

SABBATICAL LEAVES

A tenured faculty member is eligible to apply for a sabbatical leave. See the *Faculty Handbook*, Chapter 6, Section 6.1.15.1 for further information and contact *Marlene Vant Hoogt*, Executive Assistant to the Provost if you have any questions.

TRAVEL TO PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Funds are available for faculty to attend and participate in meetings of professional societies; support also is available for attendance at one conference for professional development of scholarship. See the Provost's Office [Faculty Travel Support](#) website. For more information, contact *Markus Dubischar*, Associate Provost. For support to attend a pedagogical or curricular development conference, please refer to the above sections on *Curricular Development* and *Pedagogical Development*.