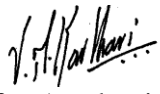




MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor T. Newman, President Faculty Senate

Cc: Professor R. Miller, President-Elect Faculty Senate
Dr. R. Altenkirch, President
Dr. J. Horack, Vice President for Research
Mr. R. Pinner, Vice President for Finance and Administration

FROM: Vistasp M. Karbhari, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs 

SUBJECT: Senate Resolution 11-12-05: "Faculty Professional Meeting Attendance Support Bill (Development I Bill)"

DATE: February 10, 2012

I am in full support of the development and implementation of mechanisms that enhance opportunities for faculty development, including through their attendance at conferences or presenting works of art or creative expression. The resolution appears to largely overlap with the UAHuntsville Scholarship Enhancement Travel Award Program that already exists and I would welcome a discussion on how this in itself might be modified to meet the objectives of the resolution rather than through the establishment of an additional fund.

It may be of interest to note that since its initiation in October 2011, 24 faculty have applied for funding and all 24 have been provided funds. The total funding, to date, from Academic Affairs, and not including amounts provided by the Colleges in addition, amount to over \$10,000. The funds are provided based on receipt of the simple application and are contingent on acceptance of a paper/work of art or creative expression for presentation. In order to provide flexibility and decrease bureaucracy no committee structure exists for selection of awardees. Rather, all those who apply and meet the criteria are funded as applications are received. This structure was chosen to ensure that there was flexibility in terms of timing (rather than restricting applications to preset dates), no constraint in terms of who could apply, or complex criteria on the basis of which awardees would be chosen (to avoid any perception of consideration of discipline, type of scholarship/creative activity, rank or years in service).

I would also like to point out that colleges are currently provided limited funds as part of their budgets for faculty development and these are being used in different ways by the Colleges including for conference attendance. Based on input I have received from the Deans it would appear that there is no real shortage of opportunities within Colleges to obtain travel funds at the level being discussed. If circumstances exist that I am not aware of that constrain application for such funds I would appreciate being informed of them.