

Dear Colleagues,

At the April 7 meeting of the faculty, I announced on behalf of the COI opportunities for faculty to contribute to two initiatives under a newly-funded grant from the Mellon Foundation:

Increasing the focus on race and ethnicity in the General Education Curriculum

In response to calls to enhance the traditional emphasis of the Barnard curriculum on issues of gender with an increased focus on race and ethnicity, the grant proposes that

- faculty be encouraged to increase the critical analysis of race and ethnicity in the curriculum
- faculty working groups be established to explore methods for further integrating the examination of race and ethnicity into the curriculum.

Revisiting the General Education Requirements

In recognition that nearly 10 years has elapsed since the last major revision of the GERs, the grant is supporting their continued assessment and possible modification. Student focus groups reflected substantial confusion regarding the distinctions between several of the nine “ways of knowing” (in particular, Reason & Value, Cultures in Comparison and Social Analysis). In addition, faculty opinions are currently being assessed to identify concerns that might suggest other modifications to the GERs. Accordingly,

- faculty working groups will be established to investigate refining, clarifying, and possibly altering GER requirements.

Implementation

At this time, the COI is requesting proposals for curricular development activities during the Summer of 2008 to increase the treatment of issues surrounding race and ethnicity (broadly defined) within the GERs. Proposals might involve either substantially expanding the focus on race/ethnicity in current course offerings or proposing new courses where race and/or ethnicity are the primary focus. Proposals to assess how current offerings offer a critical analysis of race and ethnicity will also be considered. Up to four proposals can be funded, and stipends are \$3500.00 per project. Proposals are due by **May 7, 2008** and can be submitted by email to sstroess@barnard.edu. Proposals should be no longer than 2 pages in length, and faculty members of the COI will make final decisions regarding funding.

During the summer, faculty working groups will be formed to begin work in the Fall 2008 semester. Each member of a working group will receive a stipend of \$500 per semester, and faculty can serve either one or two semesters. Please indicate if you are interested in serving on a working group by sending an email to sstroess@barnard.edu by **July 1, 2008**. To allow formation of effective working groups, please indicate any specific interests you might have with regard to the GERs.

Respectfully,

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