REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Associated Colleges of the Midwest
Faculty Career Enhancement Project (FaCE) Phase II

PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Phase II of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest’s (ACM) Faculty Career Enhancement (FaCE) Project aims to foster and enhance the rich collaboration within the ACM and in doing so to foster innovations in collaboration more broadly throughout higher education by disseminating models and practices developed on ACM campuses and discerned through careful evaluation. The project is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

As the ACM nears the mid-point of this three-year grant, it seeks assistance in evaluating the effectiveness of this project thus far and to assist the consortium in thinking how to sustain the best ideas and practices from this project through assessment.

In particular ACM seeks faculty researchers—working individually or as a team of researchers within or across ACM colleges—to design and implement a structured evaluation of the funded activities with respect to the project’s goals. In doing so, we would hope the evaluation would reach the following stakeholders:

• ACM faculty members who have received grants in the first three award cycles of FaCE Phase II;
• ACM faculty leaders and deans who have been involved in implementing, coordinating, and publicizing FaCE Phase II;
• Other ACM faculty members who have not been involved with the project.

The evaluation project would provide both overviews and fine-grained detail about what kinds of activities are being carried out through the grants, with a preliminary sense of the overall impact of the project and its progress toward the goals of fostering innovation and collaboration as well as dissemination and sustainability of these accomplishments. We would also want to know how members of the ACM colleges—both grant awardees and non-participants—perceive the FaCE Phase II project to date, and how communication with internal constituents might be improved.

Ideally, the survey project will produce three kinds of recommendations:

• **Adjustments** the project should make to address problems or take advantage of unanticipated results and emerging opportunities to enhance progress toward project goals;
• **Strategies** for colleges to institutionalize the innovations, best practices, replicable models and lessons that emerge from the project, by re-focusing existing funds as well as seeking new funds for faculty and student research;
• **Key ideas to disseminate** among the colleges and beyond.

Beginning in January 2008, Phase II of the ACM FaCE Project has awarded nearly $100,000 in grants for collaborative research and collaborative events. As Phase I of the
FaCE Project and other ACM projects have demonstrated, ACM colleges have a productive history of consortial collaboration, making them particularly well suited to develop cross-institutional models of collaboration. By developing networks and tools that support collaboration, by carefully evaluating results, and by promulgating findings and best practices resulting from the projects, the ACM can meet the Mellon Foundation’s challenge to sustain faculty development opportunities provided by the FaCE grant beyond the period of funding.

The ACM FaCE Project Phase II can award up to $20,000 for a successful evaluation project. A separate external evaluation project will also be conducted independently of this internal evaluation.

At the conclusion of the grant period (after December 31, 2010), ACM will convene a group of faculty liaisons, deans, and institutional researchers to discuss these and other evaluation surveys and reports. Their goal will be to generate final recommendations for carrying forward the best practices, professional networks and web-based tools generated by the project.

Procedures:
1. ACM faculty, working individually or in teams, may submit research proposals.
2. Teams may be from a single institution or involve members of more than one ACM college;
3. Collaborative research involving a team of students, faculty and/or staff research would be welcome.
4. Proposals should include
   • an outline of the methodological approach and logistics to be employed;
   • background information about the participants’ qualifications and experience with similar work;
   • a project budget;
   • a current c.v. for the project leaders;
   • a letter of support from the project leaders’ academic dean.
5. Proposals will be accepted until July 1, 2009.
6. The preliminary work for the survey project should be completed by October 15, 2009. An interim report will be due by December 31, 2009, with a comprehensive final report due in early 2011.

Please contact ACM Vice President John Ottenhoff (jottenhoff@acm.edu; 312-263-5000) with any questions about this project; completed proposals can be submitted electronically. Information about the FaCE Phase II project, including recent grants and grant guidelines, can be found at http://www.acm.edu/face.