In 1978 the Advisory Board of Deans established a modest program to encourage professional development among ACM faculty members. Since its inception, the program has sponsored numerous meetings, including recent gatherings of classicists, economists, Medievalists, and faculty in both American and environmental studies. Meetings can also center on interdisciplinary issues, such as past years’ grants in legal studies, media studies, and peace studies. Mathematicians, economists, and geologists have also developed a visiting scholar program, which allows individuals from one campus to visit other campuses for the purposes of professional discussion.

Disciplinary or cross-disciplinary groups are encouraged to submit brief proposals describing the proposed multi-campus activity (meeting, workshop, seminar, visiting scholar program) to the ACM office not later than February 15, 2007. Proposals should be two to three pages in length, and include:

- a clear description of the goals of the project;
- a description of the importance of the issues to faculty within a discipline or across a range of disciplines;
- an explanation of the outcome of the project, including how it will contribute to curricular aims of the ACM colleges;
- a preliminary agenda outlining the topics to be covered, the mode of interaction envisioned, and the outside speakers, if any, to be included;
- an indication that faculty in the host institution, and in other ACM institutions, have been involved in the planning.

Proposals should include a preliminary budget, which may include food and lodging for one participant from each college, administrative costs, and travel expenses and support costs for a visiting scholar. Each participating ACM college will pay travel costs for one person to attend a proposed meeting. Colleges may send more than one individual to meetings, but will have to bear the full costs of such participation. Ordinarily a request for funding should not exceed $1,500. Special consideration of expenses up to $2,000 can be given provided there is a compelling justification.

An endorsement by the dean should also be included. Faculty proposing projects should, if possible, indicate follow-up activities to signify that the project will have impact. Following the workshop, organizers will provide a report to the ACM office on the content and costs of the meeting.

Proposals received by February 15 will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Advisory Board of Deans and final recommendations will be submitted to the full Board at the March meeting. Sponsors of successful projects should know by April that support for the following academic year or summer will be available. We expect that three projects can be funded each year.