

# The TEW Presidential Discretionary Fund: Call for Proposals

Ashley Biser, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Faculty Development

To: OWU Faculty  
Date: October 15, 2017

---

The Thomas E. Wenzlau (TEW) Presidential Discretionary Fund is an endowment used for faculty scholarship and curricular development. Under the terms of the endowment, and at the discretion of the President, funds have been divided in such a way that a large portion of them are made available to faculty as TEW Grants.

I am now soliciting proposals from faculty for grant awards for the next granting cycle. These proposals will be evaluated for funding by an ad-hoc faculty committee appointed and chaired by me. Funds will be awarded to support teaching and curricular development and/or scholarly research projects. Faculty should be aware that the awarding of grants is very competitive. Generally, the most favorable reviews are given to proposals with a well thought-out plan, a judicious and well-developed budget, and a focus on advancing the faculty member's competence in teaching and/or research. At this time, no exact determination can be made of the total amount that will be available from the endowment earnings of the fund. However, we have traditionally distributed approximately \$100,000 (annually) to fund faculty projects.

***This year, the TEW Committee will be accepting two rounds of proposals. The first round will be due by November 3, 2017. The second round will be due on February 1, 2018.***

***Faculty must have proposals turned in by the deadlines above.*** Due to the volume of work that the Committee must undertake over a short period of time, ***late proposals will not be considered.*** Decisions on awards are expected to be finalized within a month of the deadline.

**November Cycle:** Grant funds become available as of January 1, and, unless an extension is granted, must be used by December 31 of the same calendar year.

**February Cycle:** Grant funds become available as of July 1, and, unless an extension is granted, must be used by June 30 of the following year.

Faculty should be aware that the terms of the grant require that a report of the results of the grant be submitted upon its completion (see criteria). Faculty who fail to complete a report and/or clear an account are ineligible for subsequent TEW grants.

A copy of the guidelines and of the working criteria used in awarding the grants is enclosed. ***Please read these guidelines carefully,*** and be aware that the committee will pay close attention to the grant proposal's "fit" with the guidelines. ***Please submit your proposals via the link included in this email.***

If you have any questions regarding the development of a grant proposal and/or awarding of a grant, please call me (x3863) or make an appointment to meet with me about your proposal.

## Proposal Guidelines

Funds will be granted for scholarly development and/or for the purpose of helping faculty meet the teaching and learning objectives identified in the University's Statement of Aims. More specifically, funds will be provided for the development of:

- specific courses
- interdisciplinary projects that promise an integrated approach to knowledge, and that help students in the transfer of ideas and skills among disciplines,
- projects to improve pedagogy
- projects that enhance a faculty member's scholarship

The most promising grants will incorporate aspects of both pedagogical and scholarly development.

Funding may be requested for:

- Travel (e.g., transportation, room, and board)
- Conference registration
- Materials needed for the project, including some equipment, tools, materials, and professional supplies. (Given the financial constraints, relatively expensive equipment, e.g., computers and scientific instruments, are less likely to be funded.)
- Graduate school fees required for study
- Replacement costs for the teaching of a course from which the applicant is released by virtue of receiving the grant

Generally, research assistants, consultants, and secretarial and/or editorial assistance will not be funded.

Applications should be submitted with information provided in the following sequence:

- A. Proposer's name
- B. Brief descriptive title of the project
- C. Description of the project, including background, who would be involved, proposed activities, and objectives to be achieved. Please keep in mind that the TEW Committee may not contain anyone who is knowledgeable about your topic.
- D. A brief statement addressing the degree of maturation of the proposed project. Is it a continuance of current work or the development of a new pedagogical, scholarly, or creative direction?
- E. Relation of the project to institutional and departmental goals and needs. (Cite specific documents or actions by committees or the faculty whenever possible.)
- F. Procedures to be used for evaluation of the project objectives
- G. Description of how the project lends itself to the search for additional funds outside the university
- H. Summary of your record with respect to follow-through, results, and accountability in similar projects
- I. Dates when project will begin and end
- J. Itemized budget for the project
- K. Signature of the Department Chair, if teaching replacement is sought

It will be helpful to the TEW Committee if your proposal includes an abbreviated version of your vita, with particular emphasis on content that is relevant to your proposal, and on the professional

recognition that your work has received. Please indicate the level of achievement (i.e., local, regional, national, international), and provide an interpretation of what this means in your discipline.

### **Working Criteria for Awarding TEW Grants**

The TEW Committee takes the following criteria into consideration:

- Compatibility of the proposal with the overall purposes of the TEW Fund
- Adherence to the application guidelines described above
- For pedagogical projects, the extent to which the project advances the University's aims, with relatively heavier weight to those with potential for impact on greater numbers of students, faculty, or programs
- For scholarly and creative projects, the extent to which the project helps the faculty member to be of greater service to OWU. This includes projects that involve retraining to increase scholarly or creative productivity.
- Record of achievement of proposer(s), where applicable, with greater weight for projects proposed by those who have demonstrated or show promise of follow-through, results, and accountability through the filing of reports (e.g., leaves, previous grants, etc). Failure to file a report or to clear an account on a previous TEW grant results in ineligibility for subsequent grants. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to make sure that his/her report has been filed with the TEW Committee.
- Extra weight will go to projects that utilize external funds or will be likely to attract future external support.