

2017 Request for Proposals—Cross-School “Bring Your Own Idea” Program

The Office of the Provost wishes to encourage interdisciplinary faculty dialogue across school and departmental lines to enhance community, enrich faculty research, develop new cross-school courses, and broaden faculty perspectives on topics of teaching and research interest. In the interest of fostering relationships between faculty that may yield future teaching and research collaborations, the provost announces the fourth round of the **Cross-School “Bring Your Own Idea”** program.

In the first three rounds of this program, successful groups engaged in a range of activities including creating scholarly bibliographies or resource lists to support teaching or research, building networks of guest lecturers available to bring interdisciplinary perspectives to bear in existing topically related courses, collaborating on jointly authored scholarly publications, organizing trans-disciplinary panels or conferences, planning school-wide student competitions designed to increase faculty and student enthusiasm around a particular topic, developing grant proposals to external agencies or to other university grant programs (e.g., Public Health Cubed Grants, Diversity & Inclusion Grants), creating topically specific protocols designed to enhance student learning, and planning new interdisciplinary courses. The fourth round of the program will continue to support all of these purposes and others, but priority will be given to *groups planning new interdisciplinary courses (particularly at the freshman level)* or those *devising cross-school curricula around a topical area with principal teaching faculty from more than one school*. New courses crossing school boundaries may be eligible for support through the provost’s Cross-School Interdisciplinary Teaching Grant Program.

The Bring Your Own Idea Program:

- Two or more faculty will propose contemporary topics of research or teaching interest that are likely to engage faculty affiliated with more than one school within Washington University. Topics should be broad enough to draw a critical mass of interested faculty, but sufficiently specific that conversation about research and teaching interests contained within the topic might be meaningful (e.g., Sustainability & the Environment; The Global Financial Crisis; The Creative Process; Cities and Architecture; Technology & the Digital Revolution; Equality in Theory and Practice).
- The faculty members proposing the topic will assume responsibility for suggesting a core group of faculty with interest in the area who should be invited, and for organizing the discussion. The minimum number of faculty involved should total at least 8, and faculty must be drawn from at least two schools within Washington University.
- The provost’s office will fund a series of gatherings for each successful group, held between March and December of 2017. Gatherings may be structured as breakfasts, lunches, coffees, or late afternoon cocktail hours. Regardless of structure, the purpose of the gatherings will be to connect faculty working in similar areas across school lines and to build relationships that may serve as the

foundation for future research and teaching collaborations.

- The provost's office will assist with scheduling the gatherings and arranging meals. Upon request, the vice provost and/or provost will attend your group's final gathering to learn more about your group's agenda.
- Discussion at the gatherings should be informal. This program is not designed to fund a paper-based workshop series, but instead to acquaint faculty working on common subject matter areas with the research agendas and teaching interests of others and find common ground.
 - Further information about the successful grant proposals from the first three rounds of the BYOI program is available on the provost's web page, <https://provost.wustl.edu/resources/>

To apply, please submit (1) a one paragraph description of the topic, (2) a second paragraph explaining why the topic is important and appropriate for emphasis at Washington University, whether through continued investment in teaching, research or service, and (3) a list of faculty affiliated with more than one school at Washington University who you plan to invite (at least 8, but no more than 12). Please also indicate your preferred style of gathering (breakfast, lunch, coffee or cocktail hour).

Please send proposals, along with supporting documentation (faculty CVs for the proposing faculty; and a list of core faculty identified as likely invitees including school and/or department affiliation) to Provost Holden Thorp, Campus Box 1072 or provost@wustl.edu by **March 1, 2017**. Announcements will be made to successful applicants by mid-March, 2017. Questions? Contact Vice Provost Marion Crain, mgcrain@wustl.edu.