I just returned from a very exciting conference sponsored by the National Council of University Research Administrators at which we had the opportunity to discuss ideas, challenges, solutions and possibilities with colleagues from colleges and universities, big and small, private and public - all with the intent of improving our grants programs to meet the needs of our individual faculty and students.

I must tell you that in some regards, King’s is ahead of the curve; in others, we have opportunity for improvement. My goals for the coming year are to not only increase the portfolio of awards to King’s College but to engage more faculty in the research and grant funding process. Stay tuned as we meet with various campus constituencies to develop some of these ideas further. You’ll soon receive a brief survey to determine your individual areas of need/interest. We hope to roll out some new and exciting ideas in response.

As Fall approaches, I’d like to extend a warm welcome to our new faculty! I look forward to getting to know you and matching opportunities to your needs at King’s as well.

Best wishes for a successful Fall Semester!

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**Continuous Quality Improvement is the Goal...**

As noted in the last issue, King’s proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities entitled, “Enduring Questions Course on the Value of Work” received funding in the fully requested amount of $24,920. This highly competitive program (only 7% of more than 200 applications submitted) will provide the framework for Dr. Jonathan Malesic to develop the course and teach it twice during the 2011/2012 academic year. He is well underway with the course preparation and is looking forward to the Fall Semester.

The announcement for 2012 Enduring Questions Program has just been released and is available at [http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/EnduringQuestions.html](http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/EnduringQuestions.html). Jon’s course was even used as an example of what an “enduring questions” was! I encourage all faculty members to review the grant criteria and consider a possible application for the September 15th deadline.

The NEH Enduring Questions grant program supports the development of a new course that will foster intellectual community through the study of an enduring question. This course will encourage undergraduates and teachers to grapple with a fundamental question addressed by the humanities, and to join together in a deep and sustained program of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day.

These are some examples of funded projects/questions:

- What is good government?
- What is the value of work?
- What is friendship?
- What is evil?
- Are there universals in human nature?
- What are the origins of the universe?

Enduring questions are questions to which no discipline, field, or profession can lay an exclusive claim. In many cases they predate the formation of the academic disciplines themselves. Enduring questions can be tackled by reflective individuals regardless of their chosen vocations, areas of expertise, or personal backgrounds. They are questions that have more than one plausible or compelling answer. They have long held interest for young people, and they allow for a special, intense dialogue across generations. The Enduring Questions grant program will help promote such dialogue in today’s undergraduate environment.

Please give me a call if you’re interested in applying as we need to get started soon. Dr. Malesic has been asked by the NEH to serve as a proposal reviewer for applications submitted in this year’s solicitation - another honor and a reflection of his expertise and the application’s quality. **Congratulations, Jon!**
Grant Opportunities/Upcoming Deadlines

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa/applicant.html

The program supports overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies for groups of teachers, students, and faculty engaged in a common endeavor. Projects are short-term and include seminars, curriculum development, or group research or study.

The following priority is an absolute priority. Specific geographic regions of the world: A group project funded under this priority must focus on one or more of the following geographic regions of the world: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Western Hemisphere (Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean), East Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Near East.

DUE OCTOBER 26, 2011.

NSF: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP)

STEP seeks to increase the number of students receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging fields within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). DUE SEPTEMBER 27, 2011.

For more information, contact: Karen Baker, Director, Academic Grants
(570) 208-5900, Ext. 5798
E-mail: karenbaker@kings.edu

Business and International Education Grant Funded for Second Year

The King’s U.S. Dept. of Education grant for Business and International Education (BIE) was successfully reviewed and funded for Year Two of the program. With Federal grant budget reductions taking effect throughout the country, the entire BIE program budget was cut by 58%. Project Director Bindu Vyas, Ph.D. and Co-Director Paul Lamore, Ph.D. will work with McGowan School of Business faculty to implement the program maximizing the outcomes given the budget reductions. Key to the program’s success will be opportunities for student study abroad, Global Landscapes Conference, SAP implementation and faculty development. These programming “seeds” will reap benefits for International Business Education at King’s for years to come. The program received outstanding Year One reviews from external evaluator, Jan Smith. Thanks to those who took time to meet with Ms. Smith to discuss the program’s highlights!

Summer Grant Activity at King’s College

Kristi Concannon, Ph.D. and Julie Belanger, Ph.D., have submitted a white paper for consideration by the Office of Naval Research in response to ONR’s Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) for K-12 & Institutions of Higher Education Program. The paper, “Igniting the Spark of Interest in STEM For Girls in Northeastern Pennsylvania,” proposes to develop and implement an annual two-week hands-on summer camp program designed to inspire interest in STEM fields for middle-school aged girls in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This type of program will increase the number of students interested in and available to pursue fields of study critical to the Navy and, ultimately, meet this nation’s growing domestic and military needs. The camp program is unique to Northeastern Pennsylvania in its focus on younger students and those who may not otherwise have the financial means to participate in such an experience. All lab experiences will be taught exclusively by women who are King’s faculty and noted regional experts in their fields of science and mathematics.

Research Methods: Student Engagement for Future Success

As faculty prepare King’s undergraduate students for the future - whether direct employment or graduate school - research may be an important aspect of that future. Students entering fields of Science, Education, Business, or the Humanities may find a niche in research and publication. To that end, if I can assist you in your research methods curriculum, I am happy to do so. Perhaps an exercise where students identify/qualify potential funding opportunities and/or prepare application narratives for peer review among faculty and fellow students; perhaps reviewing a successfully funded Federal grant in their area of study; perhaps a walk through of the application process for agencies associated with their area of study (NSF, NEH, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Energy, etc.) I’m happy to visit class, prepare materials or point you in the direction needed to meet your needs.