

Dear Colleagues,

In 2006, the Mellon Foundation awarded the Mellon 23, a group of twenty-three liberal arts colleges that includes Amherst, a Faculty Career Enhancement Program grant. For the past three years, some of this funding has been used to support nine multi-institution faculty development workshop proposals each year.

I write to invite and encourage you to submit proposals for workshops that will take place in the summer of 2011 and during the 2011-2012 academic year. For the upcoming round (the final one for this grant), it is anticipated that between seven and nine workshops will be funded, with announcements expected by mid-February 2011. The workshops enable faculty members from Mellon 23 institutions to gather and work together on a subject of mutual interest. If you are interested, please review carefully the [guidelines](#) for making a proposal. As of January 1, 2011, the Mellon 23 will be renamed the *Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges (AALAC)* to acknowledge the commitment of the twenty-three member colleges to continue their collaborative work after the completion of the Mellon 23 grant this year.

Designed and organized by the faculty, the workshops may focus on topics relating to research, curricula, or pedagogy and, where relevant, may be either disciplinary or interdisciplinary. The workshops may take place during the academic year or summer and may be held on member institution campuses or may extend a stay at professional meetings by a day or two. When designing a proposal, it may be helpful to review at <http://www.barnard.edu/provost/mellon23/workshops.html> the collaborative workshops funded by this grant over the past three years. A number of Amherst faculty members attended these workshops.

Priority will be given to proposals that are planned jointly by several faculty members from three or more (ideally, at least five) of the AALAC institutions. It is hoped that the workshops will foster collaboration among these institutions and might lead to sustained interactions in scholarship or pedagogy among faculty. The AALAC deans/provosts may help identify other interested colleagues at their institutions who might be interested in selected workshops. Funding is also available to support the participation of a limited number of faculty from institutions outside the AALAC. The Mellon grant will support the travel expenses for up to two participants from each institution, to a maximum of \$1,200 per person. The AALAC deans/provosts may provide supplemental support through their own institutional funds to enable additional colleagues to participate in a given workshop. Workshops may vary in cost and number of participants. Funding levels will depend on the nature and scope of the workshop. The maximum funding for an individual workshop is \$20,000.

On behalf of their team, a designated workshop liaison from the proposed host institution must submit the workshop proposal to their dean/provost no later than **December 17, 2010**. (This step is being taken to avoid the submission of duplicate proposals to multiple deans.) The dean/provost will decide which of the proposal(s) submitted to him or her should be forwarded to the Collaborative Workshop Subcommittee of the Mellon 23 (which I chair) for review and final selection. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Thank you.

All my best,

Greg