



AMHERST COLLEGE

Office of the Dean of the Faculty

September 26, 2007

Dear Colleague,

I write to make you aware of a new opportunity. 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. This grant will fund collaborative initiatives that support faculty in their scholarly and creative work and that aid faculty in gaining a broader view of their institutions and of the pressing challenges facing American liberal arts colleges. Funding is now available to extend opportunities for multi-institution faculty development workshops across the Mellon 23 colleges. These workshops have proven to be very successful among subgroups of the Mellon 23 that have had them in the past.

The grant provides funds to support workshops that enable faculty members from Mellon 23 institutions to gather and work together on a subject of mutual interest. 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 break time and may be held on member institution campuses or may extend a stay at professional meetings by a day or two. Up to three workshops will be funded in the summer of 2008 and during the 2008-2009 academic year. Topics of collaborative workshops funded by Mellon in the past include Ethnomusicology and the Liberal Arts, Empirical Political Science and the Liberal Arts Education, Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Histories and Cultures of the Atlantic World, Mathematical Modeling, Understanding Culture through Film, and Teaching Paleontology in the Twenty-First Century.

Priority will be given to proposals that are planned jointly by several faculty members from three or more (ideally, at least five) of the Mellon 23 institutions. It is the hope that the workshops will foster collaboration among these institutions and might lead to sustained interactions in scholarship or pedagogy among faculty. The Mellon 23 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 Mellon 23. The Mellon grant will support up to two participants from each institution, to a maximum of \$1,200 per person. The Mellon 23 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.

Proposals for workshops are due in my office by November 15, 2007. They will then be forwarded for review by the Mellon 23 Collaborative Workshop Subcommittee, which I chair. Two or three workshops, depending on the overall budget, will be selected for full development and funding by mid-January. Once approved, the workshops will be announced on the Mellon 23 Web site and through the individual campuses, so that faculty can express their interest in participating.

For more details about making a workshop proposal and for a listing of Mellon 23 institutions, please visit https://cms.amherst.edu/academiclife/dean_faculty/funding/coll_workshops

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg'.

Gregory S. Call
Dean of the Faculty
Professor of Mathematics