

Professional Development Grant Program UC Merced Academic Senate

The Academic Senate will provide \$48,000 to support professional development as part of the \$1,000,000 that Chancellor Muñoz has allocated to the Academic Senate from the MacKenzie Scott gift to UC Merced. This is one-time funding, but continued funding will be considered depending upon fiscal constraints and demonstrated usefulness of these funds to advance our campus mission.

The purpose of the awards is to provide Senate Faculty and Senate Office Staff with funds for training programs or other experiences that would enhance their ability to do their job or advance their careers. The awards can be used to pay for (or help pay for) training programs, broadly conceived: examples include but are not limited to leadership training, language programs, data analytics programs, technique trainings and bootcamps, grant writing programs, faculty success training programs (e.g., NCFDD), interdisciplinary trainings, research-focused summer schools, pedagogy trainings, public-speaking and presentation courses, mentoring or support-network focused events or programming, and so on.

These awards will be administered by the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF). All proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee.

For AY 22-23, FWAF anticipates awarding approximately sixteen professional development grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 each.

Details of eligibility, application process, and proposal evaluation criteria are described below.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Academic Senate faculty and Academic Senate Office staff
- Each faculty or Senate Office staff member can apply for one professional development opportunity.
- Junior faculty and Senate Office staff will be prioritized.
- Faculty and Senate Office staff who have no other way to fund these opportunities (e.g., through start-up funds or grants) will also be prioritized.
- Faculty or Senate Office staff who secure matching or partial funding from another source to help fund this opportunity will also be prioritized.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Demonstrates likely positive impact on research, teaching, service, contribution to equality, diversity, and inclusion or on the applicant's ability to gain skills and experiences that would help them achieve merits or promotions or better serve the University.
- Optional: Demonstrates that this funding will be useful for mentoring-focused events and programming, including facilitating peer mentoring and supportive networking for faculty from underrepresented backgrounds.

- Optional: Demonstrates need for the funding due, for instance, to depleted start-up account or lack of grant or other forms of funding for this opportunity.
- Optional: Demonstrates that this funding will be especially useful in helping the candidate gain tenure or a similarly important promotion for Senate Office staff.
- Optional: Demonstrates an opportunity for cost-sharing.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Deadline for submission: **11:59 pm, Friday, April 14, 2023**
- Submit electronically to the Senate Office to the attention of Simrin Takhar, Principal Analyst: senateoffice@ucmerced.edu
- Decisions will be announced by **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

Proposals should include the following elements:

- A one-page cover letter explaining what the professional development opportunity is, how much it costs, how it would advance the candidate's career, and (if applicable) why the candidate needs these funds or why having them would be especially helpful (as opposed to seeking an alternative source for the funding).
- A current resume or CV.

Each proposal must consist of a single PDF file submitted electronically to the Senate Office at senateoffice@ucmerced.edu to the attention of Senate Principal Analyst, Simrin Takhar. Funds will become available immediately upon award notification. All award funding must be spent within six months of award unless there are exceptional circumstances. We ask that you work with your respective financial staff to ensure all expenses are incurred in a timely manner.