

Research Grant Resolution

Division of Social Science

February 7, 2001: Action: Resolution Tabled

[APPROVED AS AMENDED, SS DIVISION MTG, MARCH 1, 2001]

Whereas Truman State University encourages the hiring and promotion of faculty who have demonstrated excellence and commitment both as scholars and teachers; and

Whereas retention of qualified faculty has been a growing concern within the University community; and

Whereas equitable access to research funding is important to improving retention of faculty members with keen interest in pursuing their research agenda; and

Whereas there has been growing dissatisfaction and discontent concerning the availability and the distribution of research grants which diminishes faculty morale thereby arguably undermining the prospects for improving faculty retention; and

Whereas this concern is reinforced by the results of the 2001 Faculty Research Grant allocations, which resulted in thirty-six of sixty applicants receiving funding, as follows:

Business & Accountancy	0 of 1 funded = 00 percent
Education	None requested
Fine Arts	1 of 3 funded = 33 percent
HPP	1 of 2 funded = 50 percent
Language & Literature	4 of 9 funded = 44 percent
Math & Computer Science	1 of 3 funded = 33 percent
Science	23 of 25 funded = 92 percent
Social Science	6 of 17 funded = 35 percent

and

Whereas the stated mission of Truman State University implies equal support for research in all liberal disciplines, provided there is no evidence of consistent weakness in research proposals from some of them; and

Whereas no such conclusion can be drawn from the current review process, which takes little account of research methodologies that ~~depart from the positivist/quantitative model~~ differ from those employed by the physical and natural sciences; and

Whereas the current process is needlessly foreshortened, culminating in a single afternoon-evening-night joint session, which does not allow time for thorough evaluation of proposals; and

Be it therefore resolved that Truman State University revise the research funding process in a way that redresses the current imbalance among academic divisions in terms of the percentage of proposals funded; and

Be it further resolved that Truman State University review the research application and grant procedures in their entirety, including the composition of the Faculty Research Committee and the voting privileges of each member with the goal of demonstrating commitment to the full range of research methods and approaches found among the liberal arts and sciences. ~~and~~

~~And because the recent allocation of research grant awards has arguably failed to support several excellent proposals, some of which were described as such by the Faculty Research Committee, be it further resolved, that the VPAA (or any other appropriate officer or officers of the University) identify and allocate discretionary or other monies to fund at least three and up to ten additional research applications submitted by faculty who are not members of the Science Division.~~