

**Faculty Fund for Advanced Studies Report to the Academic Senate**  
**1 April 2026**

Over the past several years, the Faculty Fund for Advanced Studies has been working to ensure equity, transparency, and impartiality in the award selection processes. We have done this by anonymizing our applications, updating the rubric that is used to evaluate grant applications to include the college's mission, and by making changes to how applicants who are on the FFAS committee participate in these conversations.

The FFAS Committee is currently working on expanding our annual award ceremony to include associate faculty. It is our intention to create a new associate faculty fund that anyone can donate to so we may provide awards to associate faculty. We have determined how we will set up a new account, and ways to attract donors. At this point, the committee has come up against a barrier. We feel it is important that associate faculty be part of the committee and the award selection process. We do not feel it would be appropriate to ask associate faculty to join the committee without pay for their time and work. We are reaching out to Academic Senate to share this concern and ask for guidance on how to proceed in an equitable and inclusive way that would include associate faculty voice and payment for their work. We would appreciate your guidance on next steps so we may support all instructors across our campuses.

Thank you!

***Jocelyn Arild, M.A., M.S.***

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