Whereas the University of Colorado has set as a goal to encourage and support interdisciplinary collaboration on the Boulder campus, including the setting of the Flagship 2030 Flagship Initiative, Transcending Traditional Academic Boundaries,

And

Whereas interdisciplinary faculty seminars have been successfully delivered on campus previously from both College sources and SEED grant competitions,

And

Whereas interdisciplinary faculty seminars have demonstrated significant Return on Investment through new research initiatives and funding, collaborative teaching, and long-term collaboration development,

And

Whereas the BFA Faculty Affairs Committee in consultation with the BFA Executive Committee has developed an initiative to support this vision through a formalized Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar series as documented in the accompanying pages,

And

Whereas the initiative has received favorable initial comments by the Administration and the BFA Executive Committee has granted its endorsement of the new program,

IT IS MOVED that the BFA endorse the creation of the Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar series program as presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee and endorse the funding of a pilot launch of the program as indicated.

Notice of Motion to the BFA: March 1, 2012
Approved by the BFA: March 1, 2012
Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminars

Summary

The seminar series initiative builds upon successful seminar courses that have been put in place over the last several years. In this initiative, interdisciplinary collaboration will be supported through year-long seminars on a specific topic that bring 15 faculty together from across campus to discuss the topic and build opportunities for course or research collaboration. The faculty would be expected to develop a course or research proposal from the seminar. Each faculty would present an overview of their research during the first semester and work in groups to develop an interdisciplinary proposal for development during the second semester. It is anticipated that seminar proposals would be solicited each spring for implementation the following year. A maximum of three of the proposals would be selected for implementation. It is estimated that the cost for each seminar would be a course buyout for the coordinator and a $1,500 stipend for each participant as well as a small amount for guest presenters. The total would be approximately $30,000 for each seminar.

Implementation

The implementation of the Seminars proposal can occur with minimal effort and expense with the first deployment of a Seminar in Fall 2012. The Faculty Affairs Committee is requesting the University (Research Administration) for the following:

- Assist in the coordination of the Seminar Series by collaborating in the advertising, collecting, and reviewing of Seminar proposals.
- Provide an initial seed allocation for a pilot of the Seminar Series. Anticipated costs for a Seminar include a course buyout for a coordinator of $6,000, a $1,500 stipend for each participant, and $2,500 for outside speaker invitations. This is estimated to be a total of $31,000 per seminar.
- The proposed implementation roll-out is to have one seminar in 2012-2013 and two seminars in 2013-2014. The cost of this roll-out would be a total of $93,000.
- Sustainable funding opportunities for the seminars will be pursued as a fundraising effort in collaboration with the CU Foundation.
Guidelines

The Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminars will follow the successful model implemented previously on campus by entities such as the Center for the Humanities and the Arts and funded through the CU Seed Grant program. Based on this model the Seminars will follow the guidelines set forth as follows:

- Seminars can be proposed to the Office of Academic Affairs (this may be the Graduate School if that is a more appropriate location) by any member of the Faculty Senate.
- Seminar proposals will be reviewed by a combination of past seminar organizers and AA personnel.
- Seminars must incorporate a theme that is interdisciplinary in nature that integrates multiple colleges and schools.
- The seminar proposal must incorporate a specific set of objectives with preference given to topics that will stimulate both potential research and teaching collaborations.
- Seminars must follow a pattern of one semester of weekly meetings followed by a semester of collaborative project development with monthly review meetings.
- Proposers must be willing to coordinate the seminar including the organizing of outside guest speakers and the schedule for the first semester of the seminar.
- Selected seminars will be announced to the CU-Boulder faculty in the spring semester preceding the start of the seminar the following fall. Interested faculty can then apply to be members of the seminar cohort for the following year.
- Participation in the seminars will be limited to 15 individuals and must represent a cross-section of the university community.
- Seminar organizers must present a report at the conclusion of the seminar including the results and potential follow-up efforts that have been initiated through the seminar.

Eligibility to apply for the seminar series shall not be limited to tenured professors and instructors on a multi-year appointment. Rather, approvals shall be based on the merits of applications, rather than the tenure status of the applicants.

The seminar series shall include a mechanism for its evaluation after its first year.