

WHITE PAPER

TITLE: Create GROF – Funding Opportunity Program for Graduate Students in the Arts

Graduate students in arts units (AAAH, DNCE, FILM, MUSC, THTR) on the CU Boulder campus are at a distinct disadvantage as they do not work with faculty who typically have significant outside funding. Unlike faculty who have received funding from NIH, NSF, DoD, etc., who can support their graduate students, the vast majority of arts faculty do not have parallel funding opportunities, because they simply don't exist. (The annual NSF budget is \$6.653 **billion** while the NEA budget is \$149 **million**.) Without access to extramural funding, therefore, arts faculty cannot support the research / creative work of their graduate students.

CU Arts Graduate students need the equivalent of our highly successful UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program). It is a very unfortunate oversight that our undergraduates have access to funds – to explore and expand their creative work / research – that our graduate students do not have access to.

Creating a GROF (Graduate Research Opportunity Program) will share some of the goals of UROP, but will obviously be tailored to the needs and aspirations of our arts graduate students:

- Explore academic interests / creative work beyond the classroom
- Get hands-on experience with research / creative process
- Develop professional relationships (CU faculty or other appropriate individuals) to further your research, and for potential committee members or references
- Acquire academic and professional skills and credentials
- Present, perform, or exhibit your work at conferences and exhibitions.
- Demonstrate successful grant-writing skills
- Refine your academic and career goals

Advantages of creating GROF:

1. **Quality of graduate work will be improved** as students will be able create projects where their practice is research (that require funding), expand their skill sets, travel for research, etc.
2. **Recruitment will be enhanced** as potential graduate applicants to CU arts programs will see the intrinsic support of graduate arts education at CU Boulder.
3. **Employment offers will improve** as the quality of the graduate work will be enhanced, and our grad students will have more opportunities to present their work at conferences and exhibitions (and network).

GROP could easily parallel current UROP funding categories:

Student Grants

- **Assistantships** (\$1,000 - \$2,000) allow students to **assist a mentor** on a project and do not require an original proposal.
- **Individual Grants** (\$1,500 - \$3,000) allow students to **take ownership of part or all** of a project with an original proposal.
- **Project Travel Grants** (\$1000 to \$3000) allow students to present, perform, or exhibit your work at conferences and exhibitions.

Faculty Grants

- **Team Grants** (\$3,000) for faculty-led research, scholarly or creative projects involving 2 or more graduate students.
- **Publications / Presentation Grants** (\$3,000) for institutional publications or exhibitions which serve as venues for graduate research, scholarly, and/or creative projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Coleman
Department of Theatre & Dance