CIT grants and support programs for 2007-08

CIT offers grants and support programs to encourage innovation with instructional technology and to help accomplish Duke’s strategic goals. For example, some of CIT’s current grant programs are related to the University strategic goals of increasing use of visuals and visual studies, service learning and engagement with the community, interdisciplinarity in teaching, and encouraging exemplary use of flexible teaching facilities.

The document CIT Faculty Project Support Program History describes lessons learned from CIT’s last eight years of grants and faculty development programs at Duke. Based on insights from reviewing that history, our current grant and support programs are designed to:

- provide a balance between programs offering close faculty support versus those mainly supplying funding needed to get a project done,
- intentionally plan for two years of support and assessment for most projects,
- not award money for faculty salary support,
- offer one “large” grant program each year and continue the rolling “mini-grant” programs,
- provide a mix of targeted or thematic programs where CIT chooses the focus, with those which are more open, or where the applicant(s) chooses the theme.

CIT grant/support offerings in place for July 2007-June 2008

Jump Start Mini-Grants (rolling) Currently offered, continue
Provide a means for support of exploration and testing, development of “proof of concept” projects, topics wide-ranging, no stated cap on award amounts (most awards < $2,500)

Invited Speaker Mini-Grants (rolling) Currently offered, continue
Bring in a respected presenter about instructional technology, $1,000 cap.

Faculty Fellowship: Teaching in Flexible Classroom Spaces (May 2008-May 2009) New this year, fits with TLC project goals
$2500 for faculty participants for the year; 1/2 that for semester
Targeted at individuals who will be teaching in, or are interested in teaching in, the various flexible teaching spaces on campus (particularly the new Teaching and Learning Center in Perkins Library). Goal is to provide support to faculty designing instructional experiences for these flexible spaces and helping faculty assess the impact of the innovations they attempt.

Group Faculty Fellowships (rolling) Currently offered, continue
$2500 for faculty participants for a year; 1/2 that for semester
Targeted at group of 5-8 faculty from one school, department or program who are working together on a curriculum reform project involving instructional technology. CIT provides custom, CIT-led program meeting Fellows proposed goals.
Ideas for “large” CIT grant/support offerings – for CIT Adv. Bd. discussion

OPTION #1: Incentive Grants (topic not pre-determined)
Similar to the Incentive Grants last offered in Spring 2005, all topics accepted, looking for projects with broad impact (involving many students, many faculty and/or departmental or school priorities). Perhaps set a total pool of funding available, as was done in our earlier grants programs.

May meet faculty needs for non-topically-restrictive grant program

OPTION #2: Visualization Incentive Grants (similar to above, but thematic)
Repeat of program offered in Spring 2007, which garnered significant numbers of interesting proposals and which suggested there may be more interest “waiting in the wings.” If offering this, CIT should be prepared to suggest how we could support projects of the type that were difficult last year (those involving programming). Could narrow this more by focusing on a particular visualization technology such as Google Earth or the DiVE.

Related to Visual Studies Initiative

OPTION #3: Course Design Grants for Programs (thematic)
Work with Focus program, Office of Service Learning or other similar programs which include courses which are inherently interdisciplinary to offer support for faculty developing courses in those programs, when the faculty focus on systematically designing their courses to include instructional technology, and on assessing its impact. This would be similar to Spring 2006 Course Design Grants, with lessons learned about how to best provide support for the design process, and how to target the funding awarded.

Supports interdisciplinary teaching.

OPTION #4: Course Design Grants for Collaboration and Group Work (thematic)
Offer support for faculty developing courses which NEWLY include group work and students collaborating on authentic learning products (ideally to be used publicly in some way). Support would include assistance with planning, designing, implementing and assessing the teaching innovations, including use of collaborative technologies (Web 2.0 tools such as Google Docs, blogs, wikis, online image sharing sites, etc.). Faculty focus on systematically designing their courses to include instructional technology, and on assessing its impact. This would be similar to Spring 2006 Course Design Grants, with lessons learned about how to best provide support for the design process, and how to target the funding awarded.

Supports authentic student learning activities, effective uses of collaboration.

OPTION #5: Other ideas? What options do you feel would best support faculty?