

# Grants Workshop



The Humanities

## **Why LAS Supports Grant Writing in the Humanities**

Some of your assumptions may be wrong.

## **Why LAS Supports Grant Writing in the Humanities**

- 1) We want faculty excellence recognized.
- 2) We want to see centers of excellence to thrive on campus.
- 3) We do not have resources to make this happen.

## **Why LAS Supports Grant Writing in the Humanities**

Why is scholarship in the humanities important to ISU?

The Association of American Universities (AAU) story.

# Why LAS Supports Grant Writing in the Humanities

## Phase I Indicators

- 1) Competitively funded federal research support.
- 2) Membership in the National Academies.
- 3) National Research Council faculty quality ratings.
- 4) Faculty arts and humanities awards, fellowships, and memberships.
- 5) Citations: The U.S. University Science Indicators.

# Why LAS Supports Grant Writing in the Humanities

Opinion #1:  
It's not about the money!

## Why LAS Supports Grant Writing in the Humanities

Opinion #2:

It's about your scholarship  
and your professional recognition!

## Packaging and Submitting your Grant Proposal

- Chitra Rajan
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- Interim Director,  
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## Steps Involved in Grant Proposal

- Preliminary work in identify and understanding a "sponsor"
- Write the proposal
- Prepare the budget
- "Package" the full proposal
- Submit the proposal (through OSPA)
- Award notice will be made to OSPA
- Accounts are set up at SPA
- Annual reports

## Help Available ...

- Identifying a sponsor
- Peer reviews of your proposal
- Developing the Budget
- Packaging your proposal
- Submitting your proposal

## The VPR's Office

- How can the VPR's Office help you?
  - Information about funding agencies
  - Assistance with grants writing?
  - Cost-sharing on grants
  - Indirect Cost Rates – approvals of requests for waivers and reductions of IDCs

## About OSPA

- What is OSPA?!! What is SPA?
- What can they do for you?
- Who should you contact at OSPA?

# Grant-Getting Strategies

Marcia Harmon Rosenbusch  
Director  
National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center

## Strategy 1:

Know the language of the RFP very well.

## **Strategy 2:**

Know the historical,  
political, intellectual  
landscape of the grant.

## **Strategy 3:**

Get “buy-in” from the  
profession for your grant.

## **Strategy 4:**

Develop a detailed plan of action to guide the grant design process.

## **Strategy 5:**

Use the grant evaluation criteria to design the narrative.

## **Strategy 6:**

Determine your budget categories and amounts with care.

## **Strategy 7:**

Follow closely the specs: margins, font size, etc.

## **Strategy 8:**

Have an expert outside of your field copy edit your grant.

## **Strategy 9:**

Work with grant experts to finalize your grant.

## **Strategy 10:**

Learn from the experience  
if your grant is not funded.

## *Seeking External Grant Funding*



Dawn Bratsch-Prince  
Professor of Spanish  
Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

## Funding Record

- American Philosophical Society Grant
- ACLS Travel Grant
- Cargill HEI Grant
- U.S. Dept. of Education, Title VI-A  
UISFL Grant (2004-2006)

## Value of Grants

- Why apply for grants?
  - To support research, curriculum development, including travel and materials purchase
  - To develop and support collaborative projects

## Value of Grants

- Why apply for grants?
  - To fund release time, hire graduate assistants, program assistants
  - Bottom line: grant funding provides faculty with **flexibility** to pursue innovative and creative scholarship!

## Value of Grants

- Faculty in FLL encouraged to seek out grants that provide release time for scholarship

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## Value of Grants

- For faculty evaluation and P&T, list grant proposals submitted, agency, and dollar amount, whether funded or un-funded
- Demonstrate engagement in grantsmanship

## Serving on Review Panel

### Review process for NEH grant proposals

- Panel of five reviewers in related disciplines selected from among eligible faculty
- Reviewers sent approximately 20 proposals to read and evaluate based on five criteria:

## Evaluation Criteria

- Intellectual significance and potential contribution to scholarship
- Pertinence of the research questions being posed; appropriateness of research methods
- Qualifications and commitments of directors/staff
- Promise of quality, usefulness, and impact of resulting publication
- Potential for success, likelihood work will be completed in time frame, reasonableness of the proposed budget

## Review process for NEH grant proposals

- Reviewers submit electronic rating to NEH
- Panel of reviewers meets in NEH office in Washington, D.C., to discuss each proposal

## Proposal Rating Scale

E	Excellent
VG	Very Good
G	Good
S	Satisfactory
N	Not considered

## Review process for NEH grant proposals

- Group begins discussing proposals with highest scores and works backwards
- Following discussion, reviewers' initial scores (may be) revised

## Review process for NEH grant proposals

- Panel members never read each others' evaluations
- Panel members do not establish a ranked list
- Resubmissions not unusual, often encouraged

## **A Few Things that I Might Have Done Right**

Aili Mu

World Languages and Cultures

## Make Full Use of the Resources that ISU Provides

- NEH Workshop at Kansas University in January 2003
  - Learn through evaluating others' application
  - Get to know NEH grant officers and NEH expectations
- Karen Piconi's workshop on campus
  - Common-sense tips on how to structure the grant proposal
  - Feedback from peer critiques

## Find the Best Collaborators

- Expertise
- Experiences
- Global representation
- Collaborative and Interdisciplinary nature

## Ready to Commit Time and Effort

- Time
  - Conceptualization over years
  - One entire semester to write
- Effort
  - TA's help
  - Family's help
  - Your effort to get to the bottom of everything

## I-need-your-help Attitude

- NEH feedback
- Collaboration
  - PI as leader
  - PI as service provider
- Office of Sponsored Program in Pearson Hall
  - Diane Meyer
  - Gold Sheet

## **Both/And Mentality**

- Low Expectation: prepare to succeed after several tries
- High Performance: Do everything as if this were my last chance

## **Madeleine Henry**

- Department of Foreign Languages

## Considerations--Grants

- Perspectives: chair of FLL (=WLC) Department 1997-2002; evaluator for NEH, Guggenheim, Humanities Iowa, and CEAH grants
- Madeleine Henry – Professor of Classical Studies/Chair, Classical Studies Program

## For any grant application

- Make sure it's right for you
- Be Realistic: timeframe, “product”
- Resources needed? (your own skills; time and travel commitment)
- Larger context
- Satchel Paige factor (“Don't look back—something might be gaining on you”)

## Individual projects

- Example: NEH translation grants (Robert Alter translation of Pentateuch)
- Example: Fulbright fellowships
- Example: Guggenheim fellowships



## Group Projects

- Assembling a team
- Institutional commitment?
- Think it all through



## Example:

- <http://www.las.iastate.edu/newnews/czech0826.shtml>--UISFL grant to expand REEES on the Regents campuses



## John Monroe Dept. of History

- Getting Started in the Grant Game, or Some Strategies from a Rank Beginner

## Before the Proposal

- Know what's out there
- Develop relationships with senior scholars in your field whose work you admire
  - Present at your specific field's annual conference
  - Email scholars you have met for feedback on writing
  - Invite a scholar to Iowa State for a talk
  - Attend a talk and buttonhole the scholar afterward
  - Do not be intimidated!

## The Proposal: A document meant to *persuade*

- Keep jargon to a minimum
- Make a case for why you should be funded NOW
- Do not be afraid to use rhetoric that emphasizes your project's importance
- Think of the proposal as a magazine story
  - The telling anecdote
  - Cut to the chase quickly: the point concisely stated in paragraph two
  - Extract the ramifications of your ideas from the opening story
  - Make a case for the importance of the project (fund it now, before it's too late!)
  - Outline what you specifically intend to do

## After the Proposal

- Do not hesitate to ask colleagues for advice
- Prepare yourself to keep trying