

The Major as Home

Departmental Grants Competition

The Office of the Provost is pleased to again offer the Major as Home Departmental Grant Competition for 2011-2012. These grants are designed to encourage departments or programs to plan and execute **new** initiatives developing the “Major as Home” for our students, faculty and alumni. The overall goal is to increase recruitment, satisfaction, and retention for both USI students and faculty members.

Criteria

Successful grant proposals will detail plans to improve community with one or more of the following three areas:

1) Fostering a community of scholars with your **students**

Examples might include increasing undergraduate research/creative projects, creating more vibrant academic student organizations, student to student mentoring, creating curricular rites of passage, first year experiences, sophomore experiences, improving senior seminars, etc.

2) Fostering a community of scholars with your **faculty**

Examples might include formal mentoring programs for new faculty, curricular review, formation of research/scholarship groups, team teaching of key major courses, etc.

3) Fostering a community of scholars with your **alumni**

Examples might include reconnecting with alumni, inviting alumni back to interact with current students, mentoring of current students, creating alumni newsletters, assessment surveys to improve curricula, etc.

The examples for each area are not exhaustive. Many other creative ideas may be funded, as long as they address the above goals in some way.

As part of these grants, the Office of the Provost would be willing to fund efforts for departments to conduct planning retreats centered on these criteria, with grant funds to possibly provide a facilitator and meals for the student/faculty participants.

Application Procedures

To apply, the department/program chair should submit a grant proposal two to three pages in length. In the proposal, be sure to include the following:

Goals

Action Plan

Expected participants

Budget

The maximum funding available for a single grant is **\$3,000** per department for the **2011-12** academic year and must be used by July 31, 2012. Proposals must be submitted to Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Dr. Brian Posler, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2011.

Any questions regarding the grants or the application process can be directed to Dr. Posler at 465-1617 or via email bposler@usi.edu.