

The Teagle Foundation
Request for Proposals
Teagle College-Based Working Groups in Liberal Education

Goals:

1. To develop new knowledge about how best to strengthen specific areas of high significance in liberal education.
2. To encourage new patterns of collaboration within individual colleges and possibly between institutions.
3. To produce reports and disseminate them so that what has been learned can be integrated into the practice of higher education.

Means:

Working groups will consist of faculty and students from several fields, administrative staff, and (when appropriate) alumni, governing board members, and others. Different group members will have different roles and commitments to the project, but the foundation hopes that student involvement, in particular, will be structured and evaluated with care. Students might, for example, receive course credit for their work, or a stipend.

Once convened, the group will investigate in depth a topic important to liberal education, compile critical bibliographies, collect relevant data (including comparable information from other institutions), survey promising approaches, and develop recommendations for action, resulting in a White Paper that will be widely disseminated.

Hypothetical Example:

A college with a tradition of encouraging active learning wants to find ways to develop a program to engage all seniors in faculty mentored research. An institution-wide Working Group meets and after analyzing the questions involved, breaks into task forces for projects such as identifying and evaluating relevant publications concerning such programs, visiting institutions that have models that seem instructive, collecting and analyzing data about results achieved, evaluating the implications for faculty teaching loads, the college's budget, strategic planning and fund raising opportunities. Expert visitors are invited to campus, focus groups convened, and eventually a White Paper is prepared and submitted to the Teagle Foundation. The college is not obligated to follow the conclusions reached in the White Paper, but the Teagle foundation, after reviewing the paper, disseminates it through our website and perhaps through conferences or publications, crediting the college, of course, for the contribution it has made to strengthening liberal education. Once disseminated, the White Paper is widely cited and found very helpful by other colleges considering the same topic.

This illustration indicates only one of many possible types of projects. We are open to a wide range of topics and approaches provided they are likely to produce results that will strengthen liberal learning. (The foundation has already funded a series of Working Groups led by major research organizations. These are described on the Foundation's web site: www.teaglefoundation.org.)

Collaborations:

The Working Groups are very likely to develop closer collaborations among different groups on individual campuses. Inter-institutional collaboration is also welcome, but not required in these proposals. A joint working group between two or three nearby colleges, or ones with very similar missions, for example, might prove more effective than one based on an individual campus. Within the budgetary limits described below, the Foundation welcomes, but does not require, such collaborations.

Guidelines for the Proposal:

In three or four pages, the proposal should define the topic to be studied, explain its relevance to the applying institution, and its importance to liberal education. The proposal should make clear how the Working Group will add to the knowledge base for strengthening liberal education, and describe the basic methods and work plan for the group. The proposal should also include:

- 1) A cover sheet that gives the project title; the name of the project leader and contact information for that person, including an e-mail address; the start and end dates for the project; and the total amount requested.
- 2) A one to two paragraph project abstract, suitable for posting on our website, should the project be funded.
- 3) A brief budget as described below.
- 4) The c.v. of the project leader.
- 5) A letter of endorsement from the institution's President.

Publishable texts must be submitted to the Foundation by September 1, 2007. No payments will be made after this date. (The Foundation will hold the copyright to these texts and intends to make them widely available over its website and perhaps through publication in book or journal form. Permission will regularly be granted to authors, however, to publish the text in any additional place they choose on whatever terms they negotiate with other publishers.)

The proposal should indicate what metric will best be used to determine the effectiveness of the project. (By "metric" we do not mean an elaborate evaluation, but one or more straightforward indicators, preferably quantitative, that point to the success of the project.)

Budget:

A one or two page budget based on July 1–June 30 operating years should suffice.

The maximum grant is \$100,000, normally payable in two installments, one at the time the grant is made, and a final payment of \$10,000 on receipt of a publishable White Paper.

The grant may be used for all direct, but no indirect, costs of the program. Appropriate expenses include travel expenses, office and research materials and assistance, meals for working dinners or similar occasions, reasonable honoraria or fees for visiting experts or consultants, etc. A modest charge may be included for released time of the person or persons in charge of the project and support staff. Institutional cost sharing should be shown whenever possible.

Projects should not exceed 21 months in length and publishable White Papers must be received by September 1, 2007. No payments will be authorized after that date.

Timeline:

September 1, 2005: Proposals due

November 2005: Teagle Board action

December 2005: Notification

September 1, 2007: Final date for submission of publishable texts and final reports. (No further payments will be made after this date.)

Final report:

The White Paper in publishable form.

A financial report following the format of the budget described above.

A narrative describing how the Working Group functioned and what has been learned from it about collaboration and institutional organization.

A statement about what the institution plans to do to disseminate the White Paper and suggestions to the Teagle Foundation about its dissemination efforts. We will want addresses of 50—100 individuals and institutions outside the sponsoring college whose attention to the report seems especially vital.

Please send 3 copies of all materials to:

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