

Curricular Innovation Awards
Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences
A Barber Endowment Fund Opportunity for 2010-11

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this Barber Endowment Fund-sponsored opportunity is to provide support for faculty members in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts & Sciences to experiment with and develop innovative approaches to learning and pedagogy that will address the *Founding Principles* of the School by:

1. providing an undergraduate environment of academic excellence designed to prepare students to become outstanding citizens of BC and the world
2. promoting the values of a civil and sustainable society
3. advancing excellence in teaching and learning
4. being a liberal arts and sciences school in the finest tradition, producing leaders with the insight for tomorrow
5. providing the structure to create a dynamic academic environment where the best teaching methods and learning experiences exist to challenge and encourage students
6. encouraging creativity and innovation through fostering the exchange of ideas
7. achieving national recognition as an exceptional undergraduate learning environment

AWARD: *Up to \$10,000 for the one-year duration of the award.* Up to three awards will be given out this year. Curriculum innovation projects may require significant expenditures related to the acquisition of materials or equipment for the classroom, and there may also be travel related expenses and/or fees for training courses or technical services. Requests for time release from normally assigned faculty duties are allowable, as are salary costs for research assistants.¹ The award is intended to cover ALL such expenses related to the proposed activity.

TERM: May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011. Awarded annually.

Application Deadline: January 18, 2010, 4 P.M. to Barb James, ART 223B.

PROCESS: Proposals are invited from tenured and tenure-track members of the Irving K. Barber School of Arts & Sciences (non-continuing employees are not eligible) who are interested in:

1. advancing excellence in teaching, learning, and pedagogy;
2. developing innovative course delivery methodology or learning experiences to challenge and encourage students; and
3. adopting new technologies that facilitate learning and have the potential to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of novel teaching approaches.

Proposals should be between 4-7 pages (double-spaced) in length, not including any supporting documentation. A short letter of support from the Unit Head must accompany the application, and it must detail the management plan (e.g., how a course release will be accommodated, other support provided to the awardee and project, etc.). Preference will be given to applicants who have not yet held an award, assuming that the application has met all other criteria to recommend funding.

Examples of eligible innovation activities:

- Implementing team-based learning or problem-based learning in the classroom
- Integrating critical thinking skills (going beyond subject content alone)
- Introducing interactive learning strategies (e.g., using “clickers”)
- Developing community-based experiences
- Developing student-based (and delivered) curriculum in a class
- Partnering with teaching technicians or web technologists
- Experimenting with hands-on, experiential learning activities (perhaps in labs)

Two members of the Endowment Fund Advisory Committee will co-Chair the Curricular Innovation Awards (CIA) sub-committee, which will be responsible for making recommendations to the Dean about which proposals merit funding. The sub-committee membership will comprise at least one student member, one staff member, and up to three faculty members.

CRITERIA: Proposals must:

1. outline in detail what the objectives are and how the work will be accomplished
2. address explicitly at least four of the Founding Principles
3. articulate the immediate benefits to students
4. establish milestones and a timeline for deliverables and implementation
5. include an evaluation/assessment plan upon which long-term success can be judged
6. discuss how the method or outcomes will be disseminated to others (preferably through the Irving K. Barber Learning Interface Program, and ideally through publishable products)

¹ Applicants may request the equivalent of one course release for the one-year duration of the award, with prior approval from their Unit Head. If a course release is approved, then \$6,000 of the total award would automatically be transferred to the Unit budget for the purposes of hiring a sessional replacement for the released course (note that the Barber School course buy-out policy mandates a cost recovery of \$10,000 from external agencies—for the purposes of this award, the required balance of \$4,000 for ancillary costs associated with sessionals will be absorbed by the Deans Office). In lieu of course release, the applicant might request salary for a full-time undergraduate assistant (32 weeks) or 0.5 FTE graduate assistant (16 weeks) but only if these assistants devote all their salaried time to the proposed curriculum innovation project (i.e., they can not be hired to help the faculty member on other research or teaching projects).