

## **Resolution 97-6. Encouraging Multidisciplinary Research**

There appears to be an increasing need for, and call for, multidisciplinary research that cuts across departmental and school lines. As funding agencies focus on broad problem areas such as AIDS, or the effects of poverty or mental health, it is obvious that a single discipline approach is inappropriate. Based upon information from other research universities, interviews with Center and Institute Directors and other faculty colleagues (see Faculty Committee on Research report, 1/31/97) the Faculty Committee on Research believes that additional encouragement is needed for faculty members who wish to pursue problems with colleagues from other departments and disciplines.

1       The Faculty Council resolves:

2       Section 1. *Support for Multidisciplinary Research.* Faculty members wishing to  
3 pursue multidisciplinary research problems are encouraged to form working groups and  
4 should be provided seed money (\$15,000 to \$20,000) to encourage the development of  
5 products that could lead to formal research projects or program projects. Such seed  
6 money would be used to support specific activities crucial to planning, such as summer  
7 stipends, organizing symposia or colloquia around a topic, providing faculty semester  
8 leaves, and providing graduate student support.

9       Sec. 2. *Administration.* The program of support for multidisciplinary research should  
10 be administered by the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research.  
11 Working groups of faculty would apply for seed money grants to that Office which would  
12 develop procedures to review proposals. It is expected that two or three such seed grants  
13 would be provided to working groups each year.

14       Sec. 3. *Finance.* This program should be funded through the Pan-University budget  
15 allocation process until a permanent source of funding can be identified.

16       Sec. 4. *Report.* The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research  
17 Unit is directed to report back to the Faculty Council in the 1998-99 academic year on the  
18 progress being made through this mini-program.

19       Sec. 5. This resolution is effective upon adoption.