

Buy-out for Enhancing Scholarship and Teaching (The BEST Program)
(09-23-09)

In 2002, the Provost and the Vice President for Research initiated a new program to assist tenured or tenurable faculty who want to enhance their scholarship. We recognized that teaching or other primary responsibility commitments for some faculty may occasionally provide a barrier to pursuing research and creative activities, and as a result the BEST Program was created. For AY10-11, faculty will be able to request a reduction in their teaching load or other primary responsibilities for either spring or fall semester. The faculty member making the request for a buy-out will be expected to engage in activities that will enhance their scholarship. Examples of activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Preparation and submission of a grant proposal in response to a request for proposals from federal, state or private entities.
- ◆ Completion and submission of a research paper to a peer-reviewed journal, or completion of a creative work.
- ◆ Revision of a manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and submission of the revision.
- ◆ Completion of a book.
- ◆ Research into teaching, assessment, and/or pedagogy

Regarding the BEST program, it is important to note the following:

- ◆ This program will NOT replace the Scholarship and Creativity Awards Program.
- ◆ Funds from this program can only be used for the actual buy-out costs. Whatever the buy-out rate is for a given college is the level of support that will be given to that college's Dean to reduce the teaching load or primary responsibility for the selected faculty member(s).

The application process for AY10/11 will be announced in January 2010.