Subject: CLA Announcement PRF Research Grants for 2017-18

FROM: Dean Melissa Remis

We have not yet received the allocations from PRF yet but I am sending out this announcement now so that faculty and students can begin to prepare applications. We hope that CLA will likely be able to again award about 19 grants this year. Last year, PRF provided approximately $17,215 for each grant, along with associated fringes and fee remits. The key aspects of the procedure for selecting the recipients of this grant are described below. Full information about this grant is available on this web page:
https://www.purdue.edu/research/funding-and-grant-writing/funding/prf-research-grant.php

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO [DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES] BY NOON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST.

Each application should include the following: (1) title, student name, and 150-word abstract of the project, (2) project narrative of no more than five double-spaced pages, (3) bibliography or tables/figures using additional pages. These three components should be arranged in this order and contained in a single pdf file. In a separate file, each application should submit a completed PRF Research Grant Information Form (attached).

Note: The Department of English requires a letter of recommendation from the professor sponsoring the research to be submitted with each application. If your chair has written a job-market for you, please ask that she/he not use the same letter for the PRF application. Applications nominated by the department eventually will be reviewed by faculty not in English, and letters must appeal to a general academic audience.

At the college level review, applications will be evaluated by faculty reviewers with the following primary criteria: (a) intellectual merit and significance of the proposed research project and (b) quality of the approach or strategy of the proposed research project. Rankings and comments will be reviewed in the Dean's office. All award letters will come from the Dean's Office.

In order to make the applications competitive within the college, applicants are strongly urged to follow a standard format that addresses the following issues:

Part 1: Statement of the Problem.

What is the significance of the problem? In other words, what is at stake in addressing this issue? This should be more than just identifying an interesting topic of research but should indicate a working hypothesis and argue a thesis.

Part 2: Significance of the Problem.

The applicant should clearly express the contributions to the knowledge of its field of the problem.

Part 3: Method and Plan of Approach.

The applicants should spell out how the problem is going to be addressed. Clarity is important, since proposals in our Department represent different fields of research within English Studies, and because proposals from English will be evaluated by people from other Departments.

Part 4:   Schedule of Research and Writing.

The applicants should provide a brief chapter-by-chapter outline of the dissertation and suggest the argument of each chapter. Applicants should highlight the particular qualifications they bring to their project.

Part 5: Bibliography. (Supplemental materials).

At the college level review, applications will be evaluated with the following primary criteria: (a) intellectual merit and significance of the proposed research project and (b) quality of the approach or strategy of the proposed research project.

We hope to make the award announcements in early April.