

## **Research Advisory Committee Report. 2005-2006**

The 2005-2006 Research Advisory Committee (RAC) consisted of Jason Eberl (Philosophy), Jeff Wilson (Geography), Phil Scarpino (History), Jim Wolf (Survey Research Center), Bill Blomquist (Political Science), Associate Dean for Research David Ford (ex-officio), and Jane E. Schultz (English), chair.

In changing its status from ad-hoc to that of a standing committee, the RAC was charged with creating language to describe its mission, its work, and its constitution for the SLA by-laws. That language was presented to and approved at the SLA meeting of 31 March 2006.

The RAC was engaged in helping define the new school position for a grants analyst. Jane Schultz was a member of a search committee that included David Ford, Rick Hanson, and Sharon Peterman. The committee received over 50 applications, conducted three interviews, and offered the position to Edith Millikan. Edith accepted and began her job as SLA Grants Analyst in March. By virtue of her position, she sits on the RAC as a voting member and will be included in its meetings beginning in the 2006-07 school year.

Summer faculty fellowship deliberations were the work of a sub-committee of the RAC (Scarpino, Wolf, Wilson). The committee received 15 proposals from SLA faculty in amounts requested from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The school funded 8 proposals (Bandelet, Coleman, Dobris, Hoegberg, Littlefield, Schultz, Wheeler, Zhang) with a total of \$50,000 disbursed.

Shipp's Travel Awards of up to \$500 were again made available to junior faculty members in the school, with travel proposals due on May 1, 2006. The committee will meet the first week of May to determine the winners.

Work that remains unfinished for the 2005-06 school year is that of selecting a student representative for the RAC. Though the committee sent out an inquiry to SLA chairs, there was very little response. With a new letter soliciting suggestions next fall, this should be the first task of the committee in the 2006-07 school year.