

FACULTY SENATE RED COMMITTEE REPORT

Charge: Examining faculty development funds relative to function, availability and funding in comparison to other LGIs.

University	Amount of Professional Development Fund	Reference
Vanderbilt University	Domestic \$1,500 International \$2,000	https://as.vanderbilt.edu/internal/faculty/professional-development-grants.php
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC)	Domestic \$1,500 International \$2,000	https://www.utc.edu/academic-affairs/faculty-engagement/faculty-grants?utm_source=chatgpt.com
University of Memphis	Domestic: \$2,500 International: \$3,500	<u>Reported by DeAnna Owens- Mosby, PhD; Dual Program MS/Pharmacy Program Coordinator, Associate Professor, & Faculty Senate President</u>
University of Tennessee Knoxville	\$1,500	https://programsabroad.utk.edu/faculty-advisors/faculty-funding/
East Tennessee University	\$2,000	https://www.etsu.edu/teaching/funding.php#:~:text=The%20Center%20for%20Teaching%20Excellence%20will%20provide,and%20the%20Open%20and%20Affordable%20Awards%20Program.&text=Award%20amounts%20are%20distributed%20as%20individual%20stipends,on%20the%20selection%20criteria%20and%20funding%20available).
University of Tennessee Southern	\$1,200	<u>Reported by Melissa Ryckman, PhD Director, Center for Teaching Excellence, Chair, Faculty Senate</u>
Indiana University	\$2,000	https://intranet.soaad.indiana.edu/purchasing-and-travel/professional-development/index.html#:~:text=Tenured%2C%20Tenure%20Track%20faculty%2C%20Lecturers,time%20Staff%E2%80%94max%20\$1000/year
Western Kentucky University	\$2,000	https://www.wku.edu/citl/grants/teaching-development-grant.php#:~:text=Teams%20of%202%2D4%20faculty%20applying%20for%20a,cost%20of%20travel%2C%20hotel%2C%20or%20conference%20registration.
California State University	\$1,500	https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/cdip/Pages/grants-and-prodev.aspx#:~:text=Program%20Description:%20The%20grant%20program%20supports%20conference%20travel%20related%20to,Development%20&%20Diversity%20(NCFDD).
Fort Hays State University	\$1,500	https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/faculty_dev_fund/#:~:text=travel%20is%20recommended.-,3.case%20the%20limit%20is%20\$1000.
Minnesota State University	\$1,620	<u>Reported by Timothy Berry, Ed.D., Professor, Educational Leadership</u>

Recommendations:

The Faculty Senate Red Committee recommends increasing professional development funds for all faculty. The request is for \$1,700 for domestic travel and \$2,500 for international travel. This increase is added to the university budget to be increased incrementally by \$100 each year for a 6-year period.

In the document, “Redefining Travel Money”, the Faculty Senate Red Committee suggests updating the document to state that in any given year, faculty should be permitted to use the full amount as professional development money. The recommendation is to add that funds that are not used in the academic year may be rolled over to the next academic year at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on a case-by-case basis with advanced approval.

Committee Members

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Redefining “Travel” Money as Professional Development Money

Purpose/Rationale:

This proposal contends that the institutional funds allotted to faculty for professional travel really represents the provision of funds to support the professional development, continuing education, or scholarly and creative activity of faculty. Because professional development is a broader term than travel, the use of these funds should not be restricted in their entirety to supporting faculty professional travel, ~~but a portion of~~ and 100% of these funds should be available to support ~~other~~ all forms of professional development.

Implementation Guidelines:

- Funds made available to faculty for professional travel, previously defined as “travel money,” should be relabeled as “professional development money.”
- In any given year, faculty should be permitted to use the full amount as professional development money. ~~to use up to 25% of “their”~~
- When funds are not used in the academic year, they may be rolled over to the next academic year with special permission of the Senior Leadership Team on a case-by-case basis with advanced approval.
- Faculty may use professional development allotment for the purchase of materials intended to enhance their professional development (i.e., continuing education) and/or scholarly and creative work as a faculty member. Such materials could include:
 - recordings of the sessions of a professional conference,
 - the printed proceedings of a conference,
 - access to job-related webinars,
 - books or special issues of journals, or
 - materials or supplies that promote continuing education or scholarly and creative activity related to one’s academic discipline or to pedagogy

Possession of any physical items would remain with the faculty member whose professional development funds were used to purchase the materials. This material could be taken home in support of the faculty member’s professional development without a check-out procedure.

- Individual faculty members may *recommend* to their department/school that the balance of their professional development funds be used in one of three ways: 1) to support the travel needs of other faculty members within their unit, 2) to be assigned to the unit’s library budget, or 3) or to be assigned to the general library budget without restriction as to its use. The decision about the use of these remaining funds rests with the department chair or director in consultation with the faculty.

The kind of materials outlined in the bulleted list above can be a valuable source of continuing education for faculty. Redefining “travel money” as “professional development” money would allow faculty to acquire those materials as part of Austin Peay’s commitment to faculty professional development. ~~Individual professional-membership dues may not be paid using University funds as per policy 99:006.~~