

The Teagle Foundation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Teagle Forums in Liberal Education

Goals:

1. To stimulate fresh thinking about liberal education.
2. To encourage exchange of ideas and build linkages between liberal arts colleges and places with the potential to help them.
3. To produce a text that will deserve wide dissemination.

Means:

The Examination of fresh ideas affecting liberal education through presentations by especially thoughtful and stimulating speakers, with ample opportunities for dialogue with other colleagues. A leading institution convenes the forums, but the forum draws on the resources of its neighbors, including private liberal arts colleges. The host institution will have wide latitude in the choice of topic, format, and speakers but the forums are intended to be much more than an academic lecture followed by a question period. In every case, however, the forum should result in a publishable text making the principal ideas and issues accessible to a wider audience.

Hypothetical Example:

A widely respected research library invites a distinguished economic historian as the main speaker in a Teagle Forum. She pre-circulates a paper presenting evidence that liberal education has been significantly redefined after each major structural change in the American economy, and exploring the likely consequences of some current economic trends. She presents a public lecture on her thesis, and responds to questions and comments from the audience. The following day a panel of three respondents, including one from a liberal arts college, reacts to her thesis, thereby opens a lively discussion among the smaller but well informed and engaged audience. On the basis of this discussion the speaker revises her paper before submitting it for dissemination on our web site and eventual print publication.

Guidelines for the proposal:

In two or three pages the proposal should indicate the general area of the Forum, the format and the presenters likely to be invited. It should also explain how the material explored in the Forum can ultimately improve and enliven the educational experience of undergraduate students in the liberal arts.

Publishable texts must be submitted to the Foundation by September 1, 2006. No payments will be made after this date. (The Foundation will hold the copyright to

these texts and intends to make them widely available over its Web site and perhaps through publication in book or journal form. Permission will regularly be granted to authors, however, to publish the text in any additional place they choose on whatever terms they negotiate with other publishers.)

Budget:

All grants are \$30,000, of which \$20,000 is paid at the time the grant is approved and \$10,000 on the receipt of a suitable publishable text and a brief narrative and financial report. Allocations within this grant may vary depending on format, but if there is a single principal speaker the honorarium should be \$7,500, with an additional \$7,500 at the time the publishable typescript is submitted. The host institution may use the rest of the grant for such direct expenses as travel, accommodations, meals, reception, payments to a rapporteur or respondents, and publicity. Funds may also be used to encourage those living at a distance, particularly faculty of liberal arts colleges, to participate in the forums.

Timeline:

September 30, 2004: Proposals due
November 2004: Teagle Board action
December 2004: Notification
September 1, 2006: Final date for submission of publishable texts. (No further payments will be made after this date).