

The Teagle Foundation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Teagle Working Groups in Liberal Education

Goals:

1. To encourage in depth analysis of issues of high importance for liberal education.
2. To expand the empirical base upon which the understanding of such issues depends.
3. To develop collegial relationships and networks among participants from diverse institutions, including small liberal arts colleges.
4. Dissemination so that the results of these analyses can be integrated into the practice of higher education.

Means:

Small working groups under the auspices of widely respected institutions meet repeatedly over a year or more to produce a White Paper on a topic affecting liberal arts education.

Hypothetical Example:

A research unit focused on the social sciences sets up a 10 person working group to investigate the implications for liberal arts education caused by the increase of Hispanic immigration into the United States. The working group spans various disciplines, and approaches and includes individuals from several types of institutions, including private liberal arts colleges. After an initial meeting of several days the group carries on its work by email and occasional shorter meetings for the next year, reconvening to hammer out the final draft of a White Paper on the issue. The Teagle Foundation, after reviewing the paper, disseminates it by posting it on its Web site and publishing it as an “occasional paper,” (This example suggests an empirically based, social scientific analysis with possible policy implications. Such proposals will be welcome but others grounded in the humanities or natural sciences would also be appropriate).

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 by the working group 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 1st, 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).

The proposal should indicate what metric would best be used to determine the effectiveness of the project. (By “metric” we do not mean an elaborate evaluation but one or more straightforward indicators, preferably quantitative, which would point to the success of the project).

Budget:

The maximum grant is \$100,000, normally payable in two installments, one at the time the grant is made, and a final payment of \$10,000 when the Foundation receives a publishable White Paper. The grant may be used for all direct, but no indirect, costs of the program, including airfare, accommodations, office expenses, research materials and assistance, and a reasonable per diem for members of the working group. Honoraria should be included only in exceptional cases. Projects should not exceed 18 months in length and publishable White Papers must be received by September 1, 2006. No payments will be authorized after that date.

A one or two page budget based on 1 July – 30 June operating years should suffice.

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.)