

Annual Report
Mentored Research and Internships Committee
May 15, 2017– May 14, 2018
David Mazeika

I. Executive Summary

In 2017-2018 the FSCPC transitioned into the Mentored Research and Internships Committee. The 2017 MUSE program created an interdisciplinary scholarly community for eight weeks over the summer. The program brought together 45 faculty members and 81 students from all seven Schools and 22 Departments. The projects were conducted with funding from Academic Affairs, School of Engineering, and School of Science. External funding came from National Science Foundation and NASA. MRIC also review applications for the New Jersey Manufacturer’s Innovation Fund award and passed their evaluations onto Academic Affairs.

II. MUSE

For MUSE 2017-18, we were able to fund 35 of 52 proposals through the Academic Affairs budget. Our cutoff scores this year was 11.432. However, 11 additional applications are being supported through mostly external funding from the Dean’s Office.

School / Department	Number of Applications
A&C	3
Art and Art History	2
Communication Studies & Interactive Multimedia	1
Education	8
Counselor Education	1
Educational Administration and Secondary Education	1
Elementary and Early Childhood Education	1
Integrative STEM Education	2
Special Education, Language, & Literature	3
Engineering	7
Civil Engineering	3
Electrical and Computer Engineering	3
Mechanical Engineering	1
HES	1
Health and Exercise Science	1
HSS	12
English	2
History	3
Psychology	4
Sociology & Anthropology	2
WGSS	1
Nursing	3
Nursing	3
Sciences	16
Biology	5
Biomedical Engineering	5

Chemistry	1
Computer Science	2
Physics	3
Joint applications from multiple schools	2
Grand Total	52

III. COSA

The Celebration of Student Achievement (COSA) was conducted in the month of April with the main event on May 2, 2018. The event celebrated a large number of students that have contributed to the scholarly culture on campus. Students presented papers, posters, and projects in departmental and interdisciplinary forums. A large poster session was organized in Education Room 212.

II. Descriptive Data for Unit

MUSE 2017

Dates: June 5-July 28, 2017

Faculty: 45

Students: 81

Schools: 7

Academic Affairs Budget: \$248,000

Student Stipend: \$2500

Student Housing Costs: \$1616

Supply Budget: up to \$500

Faculty Salary: \$1000

2 Career Development workshops

Weekly Community Development activities

1 Kick off Luncheon

1 Mid-program Career luncheon with returning MUSE alumni offering a career Q&A

1 Closing Barbeque

Fall MUSE poster Session, Sept. 6, 2017

1 student assistant 15 hours/week in summer, <5 hours/week in academic year

Celebration of Student Achievement

Main Celebration: Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Over 350 Posters registered during Poster Session. Students present for 75 minute sessions.

Exact details on posters and presentations can be found at

<http://celebration.pages.tcnj.edu/presentation-schedule-and-locations/>

MUSE 2017

Faculty: 49

Students 94

Schools: 6

Departments: 18

Academic Affairs Budget, student stipend, supplies budget, and faculty salary: Same as 2016

Student Housing costs: \$1649

III. Unit Goals for Past Year

1. Conduct the MUSE program Summer 2017
 - a. Completed. See brochure for complete details.
2. Conduct the MUSE fall poster session
 - a. Completed, September 6, 2017.
3. Conduct MUSE proposal review
 - a. Completed
4. Conduct Celebration of Student Achievement
 - a. Completed
5. Conduct NJ Manufacturers Innovation Fund proposal review
 - a. Completed
6. Continue interface with Development to solicit more funding for the MUSE program
 - a. Ongoing

IV. Other Activities and Accomplishments (include awards, news coverage, etc.)

none

V. Assessment Data

MUSE 2017 participation data was demonstrated in the previous report.

MUSE 2018 Review Assessment Data

Average score 2018: 11.78 Stdev: .69 (Comparison to 2017: 12.33 Stdev: 0.99; 2016: 12.97 Stdev: 0.67)

52 proposals submitted

35 Proposals funded by Academic Affairs

10 Funded by Dean's (Science, Engineering, HSS, Nursing, and A&C)

In the past few years, we had seen increasing proposal pressure from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (from 15% in 2014 to 21% in 2015 and 19% in 2016). While this leveled off in 2017, with 15% of proposals coming from HSS, it increased to 23% in 2018. School of Science proposals had been declining (41% in 2014 to 35% in 2015 to 31% in 2016), but increased back up to 40% in 2017. In 2018 the percentage was back down to 30.7. In 2017 there were 0 applications from Business, down 2 from 2017, but the same level as 2016, when there were also 0 submissions. Education has experienced increases in proposals during the last four years, with 1 in 2015, 3 in both 2016 and 2017, and 8 in 2018.

The MUSE 2018 review process was competitive. With our current budget and little extra money available we were only able to make initial offers the top 32 proposals. The rubric cutoff based on scores was 11.432, which was lower than 2017's cut off of 12.02. We received no poor proposals, but we did receive 2 incomplete proposals that the program council decided not to fund because of how competitive the review process was for 2018.

We were initially only able to fund 29 of the 48 proposals through Academic Affairs. However, all initially unfunded Science and Engineering proposals were funded by their respective schools, and HSS, Arts & Communication, and Nursing were able to partially fund one proposal each. The actual participation in MUSE 2018 grew demonstrably from external funding, bringing total participation to 51 faculty and 81 students.

Below is a list of challenges and threats identified through post-MUSE assessment of faculty and students. Many of these have been highlighted in past reports.

VI. Challenge/Threats

1. Funding for program
For the past 10 years, the budget for the MUSE program has remained flat. Housing costs have increased by 4% every year. As a signature experience TCNJ strongly supports this program. The money we are currently budgeted is not going as far as when the program first started.
2. Student stipend
Typical external research programs fund students at approximately \$4000 to \$5000 plus housing. Students in many areas have offers for internships that make the MUSE program less competitive for students. The student stipend should be increased. I would recommend an increase to \$3500 in the next 2-3 years.
3. Faculty salaries
In all our previous surveys of faculty, salaries were always the biggest concern. Faculty spend a tremendous amount of time training and mentoring the students and the compensation is minimal. Without a bigger budget, this issue cannot be ameliorated unless the community wants MUSE to be even more competitive. Some faculty commented that the pace of their scholarship was slower with students, which is typical for even faculty experienced with training students.
4. Balancing community building and scholarly work
Some of the concerns voiced by students and faculty were the balance between community activities and the scholarly work. The Director took the approach to do much of the career programming in the evening while keeping the days open for faculty and students to train on their scholarly projects.
5. Career Programming
In 2016 MUSE, Jarret Crawford made changes to our career luncheon to focus on mentoring from faculty, and have developed a panel for MUSE alumni to speak with current MUSE students about their careers. This was popular with students, and will be continued in 2017 MUSE. In addition, we have developed an effort for students to have their mentors review their resumes.

VII. Future Unit Goals

For Next Year

1. Conduct MUSE 2018
Create an interdisciplinary activity program for students and faculty.
2. Revise MUSE RFP in conjunction with FSCPC in September. RFP will need to be submitted to CFA by end of September for review. Publish RFP in November.
3. Conduct MUSE review
We anticipate another competitive year for the MUSE proposals. The awards committee will be offering additional help sessions for the MUSE RFP to answer faculty questions. With this past year's success, we expect strong proposals again.
4. Obtain additional funding for MUSE
With the competitive environment, we are finding more faculty are worthy of funding. If the trend continues, deserving programs will not get funding. We have been working with Guy Calcerno to do fundraising for the program. We will continue to work with him to provide support find MUSE funding.
5. Conduct Celebration of Student Achievement
Work with Academic Affairs to conduct Celebration of Student Achievement 2017.
6. I will be stepping down from the Director position after the coming academic. I plan to work with Academic Affairs to train the next Director. Part of this training involves developing a Director's Handbook, to assist future Directors transitioning into the position.

For Next Five Years

1. Additional Grant Money
Have faculty write more individual investigator grants to support their program. Support programmatic grants that increase summer research such as NSF REU or NIH MARC programs.
2. Increase external support
Increase interactions with development to receive a major gift
3. Increase International and Off campus participation
International and off campus programs should be strongly supported by the MUSE program for faculty who must travel for their work.

VIII. Additional Resources Needed to Achieve Unit Goals

The program needs a major increase in funding in order to increase student and faculty stipends.

IX. Appendices

<https://fscollab.pages.tcnj.edu/files/2008/09/MUSE-Brochure-2017-Final.pdf>

<http://fscollab.pages.tcnj.edu/muse/>

<http://celebration.pages.tcnj.edu>

<http://celebration.tcnj.edu/presentation-schedule-and-locations/>

<http://celebration.tcnj.edu/forms-and-documents-2/>