All tenured and tenure-track faculty,

I am glad to announce the University Research Grant and University Travel Grant competitions for 2007-2008. Please see the attached applications and guidelines for details. The due date for applications will be 5:00 p.m. February 1st.

University Research Grants:

1. The competition is open to all tenure-track and tenured faculty.
2. The new process is designed to encourage sponsored research. As such, awardees will be required to submit a sponsored research grant proposal during the 08-09 academic year. This grant proposal will be in addition to your normal research activities.
3. The new process is designed to award either money, which could be used for course “buy out”, travel, supplies and/or equipment OR student support via the assignment of a Graduate Assistant (GA) who can assist with your teaching and/or research endeavors.
4. $7,000 award limit (which can be used to buy out up to two (2) courses), with no more than $2,000 for travel.
5. Graduate Assistants with more than 18 SCH of graduate coursework in your discipline, could potentially teach one of your assigned undergraduate courses per semester and assist with other courses. Thus, resulting in a one course reduction per semester. Obviously, the teaching of said course would be done under your supervision.
6. There will now be non-LBV Graduate Assistant monies to hire Graduate Assistants who are NOT Laredo students. You can download a copy of the new Non-LBV application here: http://www.tamiu.edu/gradschool/documents/FILLABLENon-LBVAssistantshipApplication.pdf
   a. Recruits from outside the state of TX, who receive a Graduate Assistant assignment (GAT and GAR positions), could also receive a tuition waiver. With said tuition waiver, the student/recruit would only be required to pay the lower “in-state tuition” as opposed to the standard “out of state tuition.” [Please get in touch with me if you would like to pursue this option.]
7. Any monies that are awarded, and not used for course “buy out”, will be deposited in an account and can be used for other research related expenditures such as travel, equipment, supplies, etc..
8. Faculty will be afforded the option of “buying out” their time in the summer, as opposed to only during the Fall/Spring terms. If you pursue this option, do not forget to include fringe benefits (e.g., healthcare, retirement, and such in your budget).
9. Faculty are encouraged to collaborate on a single project, and share a single University research Grant if they so desire.

Disclaimer: The new system affords you the option to make choices regarding the best way to further your particular research endeavors within the new internal funding system. The University Research Council will attempt to accommodate as many requests as possible. When you are making your choices, please try to keep in mind that some of the funding within the new system (e.g., LBV Graduate Assistant monies) MUST be used for student support. As such, we will not be able to accommodate all requests if everyone chooses monetary support instead of Graduate Assistant support.
University Travel Grant

A limited number of University Travel Grants will be available in 2007-2008.

1. The competition is open to all tenure-track and tenured faculty.
2. $1,000 award limit for travel only.
3. University Research Grant recipients are not eligible for University Travel Grants.
4. Awardees will not have to submit a sponsored research grant proposal.

Research-Track Course Releases

A very limited number of Research-Track releases will also be available in 2007-2008. Research-Track awards are intended to support ongoing, partially completed large research projects (e.g., book) where a faculty member requires release time to complete the project in a timely manner. These awards are not intended as “start-up” support.

1. The competition is only open to tenured faculty.
2. Award: One course release in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 [Maximum of two total course releases].
3. Awardees will not have to submit a sponsored research grant proposal.
4. University Research Grant recipients are not eligible for Research-Track awards. Faculty can only apply for one type of award.