

**2016/17 Chair Report**

**VIUFA Professional & Scholarly Development Committee**

This past year the Professional and Scholarly Development Committee (PSDC) was focused on evaluating responses to the Calls for Proposals. During 2016-17 there were funding calls in each semester: Fall and Spring. There were eight proposals submitted in the Fall and two submitted in the Spring.

The successful applicants for the Fall 2016 semester’s activities/events were:

* *Jennifer Dawson and Tim Stokes: Science and Technology Lecture Series ($1000)*
* *Eliza Gardiner: Learning While Playing at VIU* *($300)*
* *Sylvie LaFreniere: The Rights of Immigrants: Border Issues in Canada ($500)*
* *Kathy Page: Don’t Give Up! ($900)*
* *Luke Richards: Healthy Minds, Healthy Campuses ($300)*
* *Alison Taplay and Zora Soprovich: Spring Pro-D Series ($1725)*

Current balance is $7554.86 (some activity/event debits still pending).

The successful applicant for the Spring 2017 semester’s activities/events were:

* *Warren Heiti: Thought Forum: VIU Undergraduate Philosophy Conference ($700)*

In addition to organizing the grant process, the VIUFA PSDC Chair attends provincial meetings with other PSDC reps. The Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE) committee’s work this year centered on exploring and surveying educational technologies, scholarly research and applied research across institutions. Members of the FPSE committee are now focusing on the professional development implications of a report on these topics produced by the FPSE Educational Policy Committee.

At the local level, the Committee and I have been editing the application so that applicants are clear about the purpose of the grant and giving enough pertinent information to the Committee. We are also in discussion regarding the benefit or detriment of full or partial grants. There is some concern that projects may not be able to move forward with only a partial grant.

In 2016 the previous Chair stated: “By far the biggest issue with professional and scholarly development locally is lack of resources. This topic was on the bargaining table and minor gains were made (e.g. non-instructional staff being able to access their PD time), but VIU continues to fall behind other institutions in both money and time allotments. VIU is near the bottom of all FPSE institutions with regard to amount of PD money given to faculty per year ($1000), as well as the number of PD days for non-instructional faculty (10 days). An additional issue with our PD allotment amount is that it is not tied to salary increases, and thus inflation takes its toll on our buying power over time.” This remains unchanged.

Finally, a big thank-you to Faye Shedletzky (Student Affairs), Carolyn Swanson (Social Sciences), and Bob Willis (Management) for their hard work sitting on this Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Denise Hook