

Fulbright Advisory Committee

Midyear Report – Fall 2022

Membership

Chairs: Michelle Cude, Meredith Malburne-Wade

Members: Ed Brantmeier, Bud Clarke, Jennifer Coffman, Vesna Hart, John Hulse, Sasha (Oleksandr) Kokhan, Erika Metzler Sawin, Holly Yanacek (on sabbatical)

Charge: Members of the Fulbright Advisory Board will provide ongoing guidance regarding Fulbright initiatives on campus, co-facilitate programs if available, and coach faculty and students through the Fulbright process as needed.

Summary of Current Semester Activity

- The Fall Fulbright Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 31, 2022 over Zoom.
- Meredith Malburne-Wade provided updates on the student Fulbright applications for the year, which were submitted on October 11, 2022. Data on the current applicants can be found below:
 - Total applications: 46 (45 worked through JMU)
 - 9 alumni; 37 current students (undergrad and grad); 6 Double Dukes
 - Schools represented (numbers will not add up to 46 due to double majors and Double Dukes):
 - CAL: 30
 - CISE: 4
 - COE: 7
 - COB: 3
 - CVPA: 4
 - CSM: 3
 - CHBS: 4
 - University Studies: 3
 - Honors: 14
 - Graduate School: 7
 - Types of Applications:
 - English Teaching Assistantship applications: 31
 - Research and Art applications: 3
 - Graduate School/Study applications: 12
 - Countries to Which Dukes applied:
 - United Kingdom (8)
 - Taiwan (7)
 - Germany (4)
 - Czech Republic (3)
 - South Korea (3)
 - Spain (3)
 - Thailand (3)

- Mexico (2)
 - Netherlands (2)
 - Bahrain
 - Cambodia
 - France
 - Greece
 - Indonesia
 - Italy
 - Kosovo
 - Lithuania
 - Namibia
 - Timor-Leste
 - Uruguay
- Michelle gave updates on the faculty Fulbright applications. Three faculty had consultations with Michelle as Faculty Fulbright Liaison. All three submitted in September with excellent prospects.
 - Meredith Malburne-Wade just returned from her successful Fulbright in Germany through the IEA Program.
 - There is one Fulbright Scholar at JMU right now in Political Science: Andreea Nastase. She is from the Netherlands on a Fulbright-Schuman Visiting Research Fellowship for the Fall semester.
 - The committee noted she is currently residing in Alexandria, due in large part to the lack of housing availability here in Harrisonburg.
 - The committee turned to address the housing needs of visiting Fulbrighters and other international scholars.
 - Housing seems to be the biggest roadblock to inviting more faculty here from abroad. A FAC subcommittee from 2018-2019 examined this issue more closely. Lack of housing, including long-term and short-term options, continues to be significant barrier to JMU moving forward in this area.
 - The FAC raised some possible short-term solutions, such as partnering with EMU on this issue and Monthly Air-B&B.
 - With clearer communication and a point person, JMU might be able to offer arrangements with faculty who are going on leave, or other faculty who would rent out apartments in their homes.
 - JMU currently has a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence application that has advanced in the process and is waiting final disposition. If selected, the scholar from the UK would visit JMU for the year, housed within Music but with an interest in promoting international study, Fulbright, and globalization generally. As the Scholar would be arriving with his family, the question of housing will be at the forefront once again.

- The Fulbright Celebration will be held in person again this year in February. Planning is in full swing. The event will be held in the Hall of Presidents.
 - The FAC proposed possible speakers, including a Fulbright Ambassador, a local Fulbright leader, a Fulbrighter-in-Residence from a local institution, and several student/alumni options.
 - All FAC members are invited and have been asked to each identify a few interested colleagues who haven't yet applied but have expressed interest.
- Meredith announced a visiting Guest Speaker. Rachel Snorgrass (JMU alumna, ETA to Brazil, now works for US Department of State in Mexico) visited campus and gave talks on November 10 and 11. FAC members were recommended to invite students if interested.
- The FAC members were asked to respond to two tasks:
 - Please review the Outreach Lecturing Fund and determine 2-3 speakers to invite to campus: <https://fulbrightscholars.org/OLF>
 - Please send names of suggested faculty/staff to invite to the Fulbright Luncheon/Celebration, particularly those who may be interested in a future Fulbright.

Future Work Planned

- Fulbright Celebration website (which acknowledges applicants during COVID when the in-person celebration was unable to go forward) is undergoing final edits and should be ready by the time of the luncheon or before.
- The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence application will be monitored for exciting updates.
- Planning for the Spring 2023 meeting is in process.
- New Goals for 2023-2024: Sustainability/Maintaining Historical Records—we would like to focus on preserving minutes, guest lists, plans, videos, etc. in one accessible site (likely Teams).
- We will continue to hold discussions on the need for coordinated Fulbright efforts. We have witnessed an increase in requests both from foreign Fulbright Scholars interested in coming to JMU and from JMU departments requesting assistance bringing international scholars to campus. We will hold ongoing discussions in 2023 regarding how to best handle increased requests, particularly when those concerns are currently handled within individual departments.
- Recruitment for faculty and student/alumni is ongoing.