

Fulbright Advisory Committee Spring 2022 Final Report

Membership

Chairs: Michelle Cude, Meredith Malburne-Wade

Members: Ed Brantmeier, Bud Clarke, Jennifer Coffman, John Hulse, Sasha Kokhan, Vesna Hart, Erika Metzler-Sawin, Maureen Shanahan, Holly Yanacek

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:

- This Spring, the two FAC sub-committees (established in the Fall 2021 meeting) each met once.
- The Scholar-in-Residence sub-committee met to discuss possible timelines, procedures, and recruitment strategies to ensure a clear and equitable process for identifying and selecting future Scholar-in-Residence applicants (starting 2022-2023).
- The website subcommittee met to discuss a possible JMU Fulbright website that would contain information for JMU students and faculty looking to go abroad through Fulbright, alongside information for departments looking to bring international scholars to JMU through Fulbright.
- On March 30, 2022, the full committee convened for the FAC Spring meeting on Zoom.
- The FAC welcomed new member Vesna Hart who is representing CGE. Vesna is the Director of International Cooperation and Global Engagement who has significant experience working with incoming Fulbright Scholars.
- The FAC received the student Fulbright updates. JMU has been named a Top Producer of Fulbright US Student Grants for the third year in a row. JMU will transition into the research category (R1 and R2) next year, which will likely impact our ability to make the annual Top Producer list in the near future. As of the Spring meeting, we had 33 applicants and 17 semi-finalists. By the time of this document, final decisions had been made (8 recipients and 4 alternates). Meredith Malburne-Wade noted that the Office of Fellowships and Awards recently added an Assistant Director (Jared Diener) and would be actively and aggressively recruiting for the 2023-2024 student Fulbright process.

- Ed Brantmeier provided the faculty Fulbright updates, noting he held four Fulbright Scholar consultations, two for departments hoping to host incoming Scholars and two from faculty looking to go abroad. Ed also shared a recruitment flyer from Fulbright Canada for FAC members to share widely.
- Michelle Cude and Meredith Malburne-Wade provided updates on a Fulbright Celebration website. In lieu of the luncheon for 2022-2023 (cancelled due to the pandemic), a website will be posted celebrating applicants.
 - Research and Scholarship will host the site.
 - The President and Provost kindly recorded short videos. Vice Provost Tongen provided a video discussing his time as a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico. Two JMU alumnae currently abroad through Fulbright also supplied videos.
 - The video is intended to maintain or increase interest in Fulbright, celebrate the applicants who were unable to attend luncheons for the last two years, and augment Fulbright visibility.
 - In the future, we may consider a website but there was a strong desire noted in the FAC meeting for ongoing receptions, luncheons, or other in-person events.
- Each of the two subcommittees provided reports to the FAC.
 - The website committee had an excellent conversation about possibilities, but the overall project is on hold. The CFI has a faculty-focused page and there are ongoing conversations about how to proceed.
 - The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence proposed selection procedures and deadlines that were approved by the FAC to go into effect in 2022-2023, including potentially reviewing applications during the Fall meeting.
- Michelle Cude provided a report from Muhammad Mozumder who was a visiting Fulbrighter to JMU in Fall 2021.
 - Mozumder noted the importance of an orientation to JMU and the surrounding community.
 - He noted the importance of being in touch with the Scholar prior to arrival in order to ensure connections and comfort pre-arrival.
 - He was very pleased with his warm welcome and time at JMU.
 - He noted his largest challenge was finding suitable local housing.
- The FAC discussed best practices for distributing future opportunities.

Future Work Planned:

- This summer, the Office of Fellowships and Awards will launch a new website which will include student/alumni Fulbright information.
- This summer, CVPA will be putting forth a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence application.
- Because Scholar-in-Residence can only be won every other year, the FAC will either enact their new recruitment/selection processes in 2022 (if the current application is unsuccessful) or in 2023 (if the current application is successful).
- Planning for the Fall 2022 meeting is in process.
- Recruitment for faculty and student/alumni applications is ongoing.
- Michelle Cude and Ed Brantmeier will present to faculty regarding Fulbright applications at the May Symposium.