

Fulbright Advisory Committee

Midyear Report – Fall 2023

Membership

Chair(s): Michelle Cude, Leslie Pusey

Members: Ed Brantmeier, Bud Clarke, Jennifer Coffman, John Hulse, Sasha Kokhan, Erika Metzler Sawin, Holly Yanacek, JY Zhou

Charge: Members of the Fulbright Advisory Board provides 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 December 8, 2023 over Zoom.
- Michelle Cude introduced Leslie Pusey as co-chair and welcomed JY Zhou as a new member. Each member shared introductions and their respective involvement with Fulbright.
- Leslie Pusey provided updates on the Fulbright U.S. Student Program applications for the 2024 – 2025 cycle, which were submitted on October 10, 2023. Current applicant data is below:
 - Total applicants: 22 (down from 45 last year)
 - 11 alumni applications and 11 current students (with one alum who is also a current grad student)
 - Types of Applications:
 - English Teaching Assistantship (15)
 - Graduate School/Study (2)
 - Research/Arts Awards (5)
 - Countries applied
 - Taiwan (5)
 - Thailand (1)
 - Czech Republic (1)
 - Mexico (2)
 - Spain (2)
 - Germany (1)
 - Uruguay (1)
 - Uzbekistan (1)
 - Costa Rica (1)
 - Kosovo (1)
 - Cyprus (1)
 - Australia (1)
 - Poland (1)
 - Saudi Arabia (1)

- Belgium (1)
 - France (1)
- Leslie shared that Rudy Barrett supported the process through this season of transitions as Meredith departed JMU in June 2023, and Leslie arrived in mid-July 2023 in the Assistant Director position (formerly Jared Diener's position who left JMU in January 2023). Leslie went on to share other STAIR Office changes and additions.
- Several applicants applied/are applying for other international awards such as JET, TAPIF, NALCAP, Meddeas, Princeton in ASIA (PiA), Princeton in African (PiAf), Princeton in Latin America (PiLa), Boren, Peace Corps, etc.
- Michelle gave updates on faculty Fulbright applications and outreach, Scholar-in-Residence, and the Outreach Lecturing Fund
 - JY and the Center for Global Engagement hosted its first IEW International Education Week (DOS-sponsored initiative) and as part of that week's events, Michelle hosted a Fulbright Scholar Info Session. One interested participant will pursue a Scholar award in the near future.
 - At least 2 faculty awarded Fulbright Scholar grants for 2023-2024. JY mentioned that Daniel Beers is currently in Romania. She will connect with him in the coming weeks about his connection in Romania.
 - Julian Knight, from the UK, was awarded the grant and will be arriving January 10, 2024. He is being hosted by the Music department, specifically John Allemeier since Lisa Maynard retired. He is in contact with several professors in Music as well as a few outside of Music. He is curious who is the main JMU Fulbright contact.
 - College of Education collaboration with Onur Ergunay, Scholar from Turkey at George Mason: Although we didn't get an Outreach Lecturing Fund (OLF) grant, he visited Harrisonburg with his family and met with CoE faculty. Sarah Lupo hosted him and his wife and daughter at her farm, along with a few other CoE faculty including Michelle. This will be an ongoing relationship involving Sarah and other faculty working in Turkey.
- Leslie updated committee about the recent status of the Fulbright Luncheon scheduled for March 21, 2024.
 - This luncheon would be the first since 2019.
 - Leslie and the STAIR team would like an event such as this to be a larger fellowships celebration (not just Fulbright) in the future and preferably in the Fall semester.
 - Leslie has a slate of former JMU student Fulbright alumni to choose from for a speaker (extending invitations semi-local Fulbright alum to serve as speakers); committee discussed potential faculty speakers.
 - Because of the date, the luncheon can serve as a recruiting/launching event (2025-2026 cycle) for students and faculty.

- John Hulseley suggested that each faculty member be encouraged to bring a student who would be a good candidate; similarly, faculty could invite a colleague who expressed interest but have not yet applied.
- Michelle reminded committee about the Outreach Lecturing Fund (OLF) and encouraged committee members to review the database <https://fulbrightscholars.org/OLF> and determine 2-3 speakers to invite to campus.

Future Work Planned:

- Fulbright Luncheon celebration is still in progress and requires further clarity and funding assurances/resources.
- The Fulbright Advisory Committee will continue to hold discussions about coordinated Fulbright efforts, specifically on the Scholar end. The committee will look into avenues to institutionalize a Fulbright Coordinator position – 50% time dedicated to Fulbright Scholars (outgoing and incoming).
 - JY will coordinate with Daniel Beers for Faculty Fulbright lunch chats
 - Ed reminded the committee of the kind of outreach we need to do: raise awareness and get faculty into their passion projects; educating up.
 - Ed provided session ideas such as “Getting serious about your Fulbright” and one to one meetings with faculty when interested.
 - New survey needed to capture the most updated list of Fulbright Scholars.
 - Leslie will research NAFA resources about R2 Scholar Liaisons.
- Ed reminded us of the Fulbright Enhancement Fund: \$12,000 – might still live in R&S (REDI); Used to backfill the teaching load while faculty member is on their Fulbright.