

November 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: All members of the graduate faculty, Twin Cities, Duluth, and Rochester campuses
FROM: R. Timothy Mulcahy, Vice President for Research and Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education
SUBJECT: Call for the formation of new interdisciplinary graduate groups

*****DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FUNDING PROPOSALS FROM EXISTING GRADUATE GROUPS IS MARCH 1, 2010*****

PROPOSALS FOR CREATION OF NEW GRADUATE GROUPS MAY BE SUBMITTED AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR

On behalf of the University's Interdisciplinary Team, I am pleased to issue a new call for the formation of interdisciplinary graduate groups to seed and support the development of interdisciplinary research, educational, and training activities including, but not limited to, the development of proposals for formal programs of graduate study at the University of Minnesota and to remind faculty of the opportunity to join an existing interdisciplinary graduate group.

MEMBERSHIP IN EXISTING GRADUATE GROUPS AND ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Interdisciplinary graduate group membership reflects an individual's scholarly interest and expertise in an area of cross-disciplinary specialization deemed "emergent" at the University of Minnesota in terms of research, education, and/or training. University of Minnesota faculty, as well as experts from outside the University of Minnesota community, may be appointed to membership in interdisciplinary graduate groups. Faculty interested in joining an existing group should inform the group's primary contact of their interest and request information about applying for group membership. (Existing interdisciplinary graduate groups are posted on the Web <http://www.grad.umn.edu/oii/Groups/current/index.html>.) Applications for membership in specific graduate groups are reviewed by each group's respective leadership team, who in turn forward recommendations for membership in the group to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education. In addition to reviewing membership applications each graduate group's leadership team coordinates the activities of the group and is responsible for preparing an annual report of activities for submission to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education on behalf of the Interdisciplinary Team. Interdisciplinary graduate groups are subject to annual renewal based on their continuing intellectual vitality. The name and membership of each graduate group will be posted on the Graduate School's Web site, and group memberships will be routinely updated as new members are added. Please note that membership in a graduate group does not confer any privileges related to advising graduate students or serving on examination committees.

PROPOSING THE FORMATION OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE GROUP

Proposals for forming interdisciplinary graduate groups will be considered on an **ongoing basis** and should take the form of a letter to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education. The letter must:

- include a completed coversheet (available online at www.grad.umn.edu/oii/Groups/index.html)
- describe the group's area of intellectual interest
- propose initiatives that benefit graduate students
- include as an attachment an Excel spreadsheet with the names and contact information for the group's initial members—name (last, first in separate columns), department or program affiliation, e-mail address and telephone number
- include an attachment with the curriculum vitae of the proposed leadership team members.

Proposals to form interdisciplinary graduate groups should be submitted, anytime during the year, as an e-mail attachment (Word file or PDF document) to Char Voight, assistant director, Office of Interdisciplinary Initiatives, cvoight@umn.edu. Please include "ID Grad Group" in the subject line.

REQUESTING FUNDING FOR GRADUATE GROUP ACTIVITIES

The University's Interdisciplinary Team will consider requests for seed funding from the leadership teams of established graduate groups. This funding is intended to support the development of interdisciplinary educational and training activities that benefit graduate students interested in emerging fields of knowledge. Funding is contingent on the availability of funds and the degree to which proposed activities extend graduate student participation in graduate group activities. In this year's funding cycle, support for interdisciplinary graduate group activities is limited. We expect to make a limited number of awards through a competitive process. Average awards are expected to range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for funding obligated by June 2011. Established groups that have already received funding via a previous call are unlikely to receive additional funds in this year's competition.

Funding requests from established graduate groups are due **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010**, for funding to be transferred by June 31, 2010. Requests should take the form of a letter to the Vice Provost and Dean and must

- include a completed coversheet (available online at www.grad.umn.edu/oii/Groups/index.html)
- describe the activities for which funding is requested
- explain how these activities support graduate students
- describe how graduate students have been engaged in developing the initiative
- propose a timeline for the activities
- include a budget to support the activities

Requests funding for group activities should be submitted as an e-mail attachment (Word file or PDF document) to Char Voight, assistant director, Office of Interdisciplinary Initiatives, cvoight@umn.edu. Please include "ID Grad Group" in the subject line.

Please direct questions about the Graduate Group initiative to Vicki Field, director, Office of Interdisciplinary Initiatives, field001@umn.edu or 612-625-6532, and visit the OII Web site for additional information (<http://www.grad.umn.edu/oii/Groups/index.html>).

Please also share this information with other interested parties.