

President's Faculty Opportunity Fund

This past year, I was delighted to host lunches and breakfasts for the faculty. Jeanne and I will soon be sending out invitations to those of you who were not able to come last year.

They were enjoyable and informative gatherings—not only for me but for all who attended. At almost every session there were faculty who had never met each other, even faculty who had worked here for many years.

As you spoke about your research and teaching, connections were being made in the room. This was an unplanned for but great contribution to our year of a new core curriculum highlighting integration and synergy.

I also asked the faculty to give me some ideas of what further support could be given to their work as teacher-scholars. The most common answers were more support for teaching innovation, and for undergraduate faculty-student research.

I am pleased to announce in response the President's Faculty Opportunity Fund. This year, the fund's total is \$30,000. Its purpose is to support through stipends projects and ideas from the faculty that enhance student learning in support of our mission. The deans will distribute these funds, and they will work with Jeanne to draft a process of application. Awards will be made on the basis of innovation in learning, with a minimum of a \$1,000 award and a maximum of \$2,500. I will continue to look for philanthropic support of the President's Faculty Opportunity Fund.