College of Sciences and Arts, College Council
Agenda: December 1, 2015, 9:00-11:00 AM
Rekhi Hall 101

I. Information
A. College council schedule for Spring 2016: 9-11 AM?
B. Note from Jackie re: titles used during candidate interviews
C. Correction re: call for Michigan Professor of the Year
D. Fringe Benefit rates, FY 2016: (Seppala memo, 11/18)
   Regular non-student employees: 37.5%
   Summer/additional compensation: 20%
   Graduate students: 7.5%
   Temporary employees: 9%
   Undergraduate students: 0%

II. Discussion Topics: 10:00 – 11:00AM
A. REF Program, 2016
   http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/vpr-office/internal-awards/research-excellence-fund/
   Budget Deadline: February 25, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
   Proposal Deadline: March 3, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
   More information attached below
B. Budget requests for 2016-17 (See Seely email, 11/18)

III. Ongoing and Upcoming
A. SURF Applications open: due date: January 29, 4:00 pm
   http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/vpr-office/internal-awards/surf/student-application/
B. Teaching evaluation responses for faculty below 3.2 (Seel memo 5/8)
   Due to provost Friday 12/11/15
C. Diversity Literacy workshops: (Mayer email, 8/18/15)
   http://www.mtu.edu/advance/training/workshop/
   Note: REFRESHER II WORKSHOP
   Legal aspects: January 23-30, 2016
REF plans, 2016

Note from Dave Reed
I just wanted to make sure everyone is aware that the Portage Health Foundation is supplementing REF funding this year for health-oriented activities. The categories posted on the REF web site will be the same - but there will be some extra requirements for those wishing to apply for the health-oriented funding. More information on that will be released soon, but please let those eligible know that the categories and basic requirements will be the same so they can plan accordingly as they develop proposals over the holidays and semester break.

Additional information from Jason Carter:

1) Both the PHFoundation REF guidelines, as well as the guidelines for the PHFoundation Graduate Fellowships, are undergoing final review with the VPR office, Graduate School, and PHFoundation steering committee. These documents will be provided to Provost Huntoon and the deans council next week, and I will be joining deans council for a discussion in early December. Our goal is to have all of these descriptions and guidelines posted for faculty by mid-December.

2) The PHFoundation Steering committee is planning to have another campus forum in January. At this forum, we will provide an overview and answer questions regarding the REF and graduate fellowships processes, and will provides update on other aspects of the grant. That meeting will also include a brief presentation on our developing communication strategy through UMC, which is very important to meeting grant milestones. Details and the date/time for the January forum will be forthcoming over the next few weeks.