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A brief overview of the Foreign Travel Grant program.

The foreign travel grants represent a major part of ISU's international outreach program. These resources ease the burden of faculty traveling the globe as invited experts delivering keynote addresses, top researchers contributing their results with the world and our brightest scholars sharing their gifts. What is gained by the individual faculty member is extremely valuable for their professional development. These foreign travel experiences are the catalyst for opening future opportunities for collaborations in joint research efforts and potential agreements between institutions. Iowa State University receives from this investment the type of recognition worthy of our research institution.

For the 2011-2012 academic year the Faculty Senate contributed \$27,840 to the fund, and the Provost Office contributed \$15,000, for a total of \$42,840. For the past several years the President's Office has not contributed to the fund and that has significantly affected the program.

The program supports faculty by providing up to 75% of the least expensive air fare, as determined by a travel agent. This often leaves the faculty with substantial expenses, including the remainder of the air fare, conference registration, lodging, and food. The additional cost might explain a drop in the number of applications since 2007, as it coincides with the start of the recession and subsequent lack of faculty raises. In spite of the drop in applications the percentage of approved applications has decreased significantly, coinciding with reduced funding to the program.

Total number of applicants.

Academic year	Number of applicants	Number approved	Approved %
2007-2008	102	72	71%
2008-2009	90	65	72%
2009-2010	79	38	48%
2010-2011	83	47	57%
2011-2012	94	46	49%

Number of applicants and percentage of approval by college.

College	2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012	
	Nbr	Apr %								
AGLS	8	88%	12	75%	10	50%	15	60%	11	36%
BUS	1	100%	4	100%	7	57%	5	40%	8	75%
DES	12	50%	12	83%	11	55%	5	80%	7	71%
ENG	13	85%	22	59%	17	47%	17	53%	13	54%
HSC	5	80%	5	80%	3	50%	6	50%	11	45%
LAS	57	65%	27	68%	28	36%	30	50%	39	38%
VET	5	60%	7	86%	1	100%	3	100%	5	60%
LIB							2	100%		

Cost of flying.

Year	Estimated full air fare	Estimated 75% of air fare
2007-2008	137,240.30	102,930.23
2008-2009	129,412.71	97,061.28
2009-2010	126,132.00	94,599.00
2010-2011	121,785.00	91,338.75
2011-2012	130,567.60	97,925.70

Destination of approved applicants.

Destination of approved applicants	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Africa	1	1	3
Asia	15	13	13
Europe	18	26	23
South America		2	3
North America	2	1	2
Australasia	2	5	2

Activities of approved applicants, 2011-2012

Invited papers	22
Contributed papers	23
Organizing committees	8
Research	13
Consulting/teaching/artistic performance	3

Activities of applicants tend not to change much over the years and so above is a sample of what the approved applicants listed as their primary activities. In some cases applicants combined several activities in one trip, such as presenting more than one paper, or doing research in addition to giving a talk, or organizing a conference session in addition to giving a presentation. Please keep in mind that while applicants are asked to specify whether a talk is invited or contributed, disciplines differ in how they operate. In many disciplines contributed papers are blind-reviewed, adding to the prestige of being on the program.

Applicants are supported for research for various reasons. For example, some are traveling in connections with their FPDA. Other need access to documents in faraway libraries.

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Chair, Recognition and Development Committee