Title III Program: Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Jackson State University      Jackson, Mississippi

Quarterly Activity Report

Activity:  Center for University Scholars

Period
( ) First--October-December
(X) Second--January-March
( ) Third--April-June
( ) Fourth--July-September

Director:  Dr. Mary Coleman
Date:      April 3, 2008

Instructions: Please submit this completed report to the Title III Director’s Office in adherence to deadlines established for this program year. The Inventory Verification Form must be attached if equipment and/or furnishings were purchased during the period. Use additional pages if necessary.

1. List activity objectives, in measurable terms, planned for this reporting period.
   • Post advertisements to hire new faculty.
   • Seek critical reviews of JSU faculty research proposals.
   • Notify recipients of 2008 Summer Faculty Research Award.
   • Accept travel applications for faculty to present papers at conferences.
   • Plan forum for successful applicants to examine their proposals and develop interdisciplinary research and teaching interests.
   • Plan November 6, 2008 Scholars symposium.
   • Accommodate faculty fora and lecture series.
   • Assess Title III budget against faculty development mission.
   • Continuous assessment of peer reviewed publications for CUS fellows.

2. List activity objectives, in measurable terms, accomplished this reporting period. Additionally, if applicable, include primary participants or offices involved.
   • Externally reviewed twenty-two research proposals for 2008 Summer Faculty Research Awards.
   • Awarded thirteen research proposals for Summer Faculty Research Awards.
   • Conferred with unsuccessful faculty scholar applicants.
   • Provided travel funds for twelve faculty members to present papers at conferences.
   • Placed job announcements for two assistant professor positions in the Department of Mathematics and Chair position in the Department of Psychology.
   • Sponsored “How to Train and Help Teaching Assistants” Audio Conference on January 22, 2008.
   • Sponsored Podcasting Workshop on February 27, 2008.
• Sponsored “the Challenge of Nation-Building in Africa in the Wake of the Current Political Crisis in Kenya” discussion on February 27, 2008.
• Sponsored “Bridging the Gap Between Africans and African-Americans” discussion on March 5, 2008.
• Notified recipients of 2008 Summer Faculty Research Award.
• Secured Harvard professor Theda Skocpol as speaker for November symposium.
• Secured housing for the Center in the H.T. Sampson Library.
• Advocated for an integrated and coherent faculty development program at JSU that maximizes the teaching, research and service mission.
• Notified Title-III Supervisor of failure to communicate budget changes and failure to discuss implications those changes have for sustaining gains made in research and teaching and publications.
3. State activity objectives, in measurable terms, that were not accomplished this reporting period.  
   NA

   Explain why the activity objectives were not accomplished.  
   NA

4. State the tangible impact/outcome of accomplished activity objectives.
   • Our efforts increased the number of faculty seeking research and teaching awards and the 
     corresponding quality of teaching and publications produced by our faculty. In particular peer 
     reviewed teaching is favorably impacting English composition courses and learning outcomes. 
     Ninety percent of our funded scholars have published in peer reviewed journals within their 
     disciplines; at least three book projects have been partially funded by the Center and numerous 
     scholars have been able to present research ideas before critical audiences and have returned to 
     campus to refine their works and incorporate them in their syllabi and publication programs.  
   • Our efforts to give new faculty a chance to compete for awards, graduate assistants, book awards, 
     and travel funds, mean greater success in retaining good and productive faculty.  
   • Securing Harvard professor Theda Skocpol to give a lecture at JSU will have salutary impacts on 
     our students, by strengthening a network of external scholars more conversant with JSU’s mission, 
     our students, and faculty.  
   • The session on pod-casting was attended by a dozen faculty and served to better inform them of 
     the lessons learned by a sister institution (University of Southern Mississippi) now some three 
     years into its podcasting initiative. 
   • Continuing our practice of external reviews of JSU faculty applications serves to acquaint other 
     institutions with our faculty and their distinction. While this practice could mean greater interest in 
     our faculty from the outside, it also means that we should acknowledge excellent faculty and think 
     strategically about how to retain them and hire more faculty of this caliber to strengthen our 
     faculty corps. The mandatory CUS proposal discussions impact JSU’s capacity to build worthy 
     interdisciplinary programs of research, service and teaching. The foundation of interdisciplinary 
     work is found in extant research and teaching programs that cut across colleges. 
   • Our first graduate-led symposium was held during the last quarter. This scholarly symposium 
     gives graduate students at the PhD level an opportunity to refine their ideas and build a stronger 
     PhD proposal.
• The Center’s budget has been a source of constraint at a time when faculty expectations for research and teaching support is growing. The quality of the proposals submitted to the Center has improved exponentially. The demands for research and teaching support are growing at a time when funds have been reduced.

5. List equipment, furnishings, materials, and/or supplies purchased during this reporting period. For all equipment and furnishings, please provide a separate list on the *Title III - Inventory Verification Form* and attach it to this report.

The following equipment was purchased during this reporting period: Elmo Document Camera.
6. If travel is a part of this activity, indicate trips (along with dates, locations, and names of conferences, meetings, etc.) taken during this reporting period (*Specific details should be provided in the required travel report*).

The following faculty members attended conferences during this reporting period: Dr. Candis Pizzetta, Dr. Dal Didia, Dr. Mark Henderson, Dr. Jacquelyn Franklin, Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Dr. Benjamin Ngwudike, Dr. Michelle Deardorff, Dr. Johnny Gilbert, Dr. Alberta Yeboah, Dr. Dowell Taylor, Dr. Tabitha Otieno, and Dr. Ethel Patricia Murrain.

**Signatures:**

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Activity Coordinator *(If Applicable)*

Date

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Activity Director

Date

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Title III Director

Date