

February 15, 2007

TO: Deans, Directors and Department Chairs

FROM: Janie Fouke, Provost

SUBJECT: **Minigrants for the Enhancement of Sustainability in Instruction  
Proposals–Due Date: March 19, 2007**

The university is asking for proposals for Minigrants for the Enhancement of Sustainability in Instruction. The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be found at [http://www.aa.ufl.edu/documents/Sustainability\\_Minigrant\\_2007.pdf](http://www.aa.ufl.edu/documents/Sustainability_Minigrant_2007.pdf)

Also included is a checklist the Sustainability Committee wanted to include to help you formulate your proposals. Proposals should be sent on disk or CD in PDF format to Prof. Jeff Burkhardt at PO Box 110240 or e-mailed to burk@ufl.edu.

I encourage you to submit a proposal and look forward to receiving the proposals.

cc: UF Sustainability Committee

**MINIGRANTS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF  
SUBSTAINABILITY IN INSTRUCTION  
University of Florida  
2007-2008**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: March 19, 2007, 5 PM**

The University of Florida Committee on Sustainability is seeking to fund proposals from faculty to advance sustainable principles in their curricula. Faculty may propose to enhance existing course pedagogy by inviting sustainability experts related to their fields; traveling to important locations, or attending seminars or conferences to bring first-hand experience to the classroom; traveling with students (field-trips) or developing a new course that would leverage interdisciplinary sustainable models. It is important to demonstrate how sustainable principles will be engaged in the classroom on a continuing basis.

Sustainable course content should examine how we meet contemporary needs without compromising the ability of future stakeholders to satisfy their needs. Individual and institutional practices of sustainability attend to three interdependent areas of concern: ecological preservation, economic viability, and social justice. To be sustainable, a practice must preserve rather than destroy its ecological base, ensure rather than undermine long-term economic benefits, and advance rather than retard matters of fairness, equity and diversity. See attached Evaluation Criteria for Sustainability Standards for some guidelines and concepts evaluating sustainability in instruction. These are not, however, the criteria for evaluation of proposals.

1. The Office of the Provost will award multiple minigrants of up to \$2,500 each for proposals directed toward including or enhancing instruction in issues pertaining to Sustainability. Minigrant proposals with matching funds from a College, Department or from external funding will be given preferred consideration.
2. The proposals will be evaluated by the UF Sustainability Committee on the basis of the potential for delivering instruction on sustainability in specific courses, the potential impact, feasibility of the proposal in the context of allocated funds, and the clarity and focus of the proposal.
3. Minigrants may be used to purchase equipment (excluding computers), multimedia presentations, computer programs, visual aids, instructional materials or other course enrichment activities such as faculty travel, field trips and guest speakers.
4. The minigrants may not be used for purchasing course supplies and materials, paying salaries of current support staff, attending professional meetings, or for non-instructional activities.
5. Faculty wishing to submit proposals should complete the attached form and provide two documents: a proposal with the proposer's name and UFID and a proposal without the name but with UFID. Please send to Professor Jeff Burkhardt at [burk@ufl.edu](mailto:burk@ufl.edu) as an attachment with "Minigrant Proposal" in the subject line. PDF documents preferred. Proposals are limited to one page, and must be word processed using format provided. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: March 19, 2007, 5 PM.** Recipients of minigrants will be notified by April 20, 2007.
6. A one-page report summarizing how funds were spent, the impact in the classroom and an assessment of the program will be required of recipients, and will be due before the end spring semester 2007.
7. Contact Professor Jeff Burkhardt, Food & Resource Economics Department, 1157 McCarty Hall (392-1826 X 314), with any questions.

### Evaluation Criteria for Sustainability Standards

The following thirteen points are basic guidelines to help you evaluate whether or not your curriculum embraces sustainability concepts. This tool is designed to simplify the complex process of incorporating sustainability content into your curricula by breaking down sustainability into its essential, but not inseparable, components. Some curricula may not fit "yes" or "no" completely or absolutely, but evaluate the main thesis or main activity.

The Goal: to answer 7 or more "yes" for your curriculum. If you discover your curriculum does not fulfill 7 of the evaluation points, choose 2 points to focus on incorporating into the curriculum and use this guide as a teaching tool.

Key Evaluation Points	Yes	No
1) <b>Sustainability:</b> emphasizing renewable, regenerative processes to help create a healthier, more humane and equitable world		
2) <b>Problem Solving:</b> highlights complexity of problems & does not reduce problems to "quick fix" solutions		
3) <b>Equality:</b> seeking best solutions for all beings		
4) <b>Values:</b> all beings deserve the highest quality of life possible while no being is placed above another		
5) <b>Interdependence:</b> all living beings and life processes are connected		
6) <b>Multiple Learning:</b> does not give weight to one learning process over another (i.e. rational, analytical, reductionist, linear, intuitive, holistic, non-linear)		
7) <b>Active Learning:</b> embraces direct involvement with & exploration of all subjects		
8) <b>Complex Issues:</b> employs cross disciplinary learning to explore a topic from multiple perspectives		
9) <b>Community:</b> encourages group learning skills, cooperative collaboration, and creating inclusive, local communities		
10) <b>Time:</b> acknowledges the short and long term effects of human activity on the planet (from local community to throughout the world)		
11) <b>Trust:</b> practicing conflict resolution to create best solutions		
12) <b>Ethics:</b> behaviors are nested within values which emphasize mutual respect		
13) <b>Action:</b> attitude & behavior move beyond sharing information to effective action resulting in positive change		

**MINIGRANTS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF  
SUBSTAINABILITY IN INSTRUCTION**

**Office of the Provost  
UF Sustainability Committee  
University of Florida  
2007-2008**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Department/Program **UFID**
2. Applicable courses(s) for Minigrant:
3. Funds requested: \$ Matching funds: \$  
Match source:
4. How will funds be used?
5. Describe the project objectives and procedures (or process) to be utilized in accomplishing your sustainability in education project:
6. Anticipated instructional benefits from minigrant: