



Good news and bad news! Most of you will recall that you had to complete a statement of economic interest for the State of Alabama each year. The form was required for any person earning \$50k or more. This year the threshold is \$75k. The good news is that most of us do not have to fill out the form this year. The bad news is that most of us do not have to fill out the form this year. ☺

There was an unfortunate exchange of emails regarding extra credit this past week. I think that extra credit can be constructively used to enhance student learning. However, extra credit for non-academic activities, like food drives or the IDEA evaluations, in my opinion, does not enhance student learning. Jack Slay, an English professor at LaGrange College in Georgia (a very fine private liberal arts college) wrote in 2005 in the **Chronicles of Higher Education** (in justifying why he refuses to give any extra credit):

I've seen too many students squeak by on extra credit, students who have not learned the material or who have learned so little of the material that it is virtually useless. I can't help wondering, every time I read about a bridge collapsing or a building falling, whether the chief engineer was once a student who passed a structural course with extra credit.

The weather will be great this week-end. Enjoy it while you can.
--Lou

Department News

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (Must be completed TODAY!)

Everyone is required to have annual training to prevent sexual harassment. The training program is new this year. To access it, to go: <http://elearning.ue.org>
You will need to register as a new user on the right-hand side of the page. The Institution Registration Code is: 1106-SC37-XY12

The session takes about 45 minutes and is, in my opinion, much better than the program we had in previous years. You are supposed have this completed by 15 March.



Board of Trustees Report Due 1 April

The Board of Trustees Report on Scholarly activity of the faculty members will be generated from Digital Measures. I am asking each and every faculty member in our Department to carefully think about any items that you might have sent to me to put into one of the traditional BOT reports and then log on to Digital Measures and make certain that those activities are logged-in to Digital Measures. Please do this by 1 April. The report will be generated very soon after 1 April. Your help is appreciated. *Also, all secretaries have been assigned the role making certain the reports are correct. If Tracy contacts you and asks you to fill in missing dates or something else, please do so. Let's help them out as much as possible.*

For new Faculty members: The Board of Trustees report contains scholarly activities over the past three months. In other words, it lists all your publications, presentations, grants, reviews or awards received for the past three months (Jan, Feb, and March, 2013). You might not have anything to report or you might have several items. The objective of this report is to let the Board of Trustees know that we do more than teach classes and those other activities are important.

Faculty Research Grants

I hope you will apply for the JSU Faculty Research Grants. The deadline for receipt of these in the **Associate Dean's** office (246 Martin Hall) is **Monday, March 18**, to provide time for review prior to the University deadline. Faculty should follow these instructions in preparing an application:

1. Please go to the Academic Affairs website for information on the Guidelines for Research Proposal Format.

http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/research_grant.html

2. Submit the original signed copy of the submission form, using the current form available online at the above address. Please do not use old forms! Also, please do not send multiple copies of the application; our office will get the Dean's signature, make the Faculty Research Committee's requested ten copies, and deliver them to the committee chair, Dr. Jimmy Griffin.

3. Please print the detailed line item budget, in the requested format, on its own page on white paper. Our office will copy this onto the requested colored paper.

4. If you received a faculty research grant in 2012-2013, please attach the progress report for that grant to the back of the 2013-2014 proposal submission. These progress reports are also due to Dr. Griffin by March 1.

5. Please include a current CV for each researcher.

6. Note that a faculty member is limited to the submission of one proposal as a principal investigator per year.

Thought for the Day



All science is either physics or stamp collecting.

Ernest Rutherford (1871 - 1937)

Faculty Awards Nominations Sought

The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:

- Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
- Outstanding Teacher Award
- Ringer Faculty Development Award
- Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service

All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to [Faculty Awards](#) for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 14, 2013. Nominations are due by 22 March 2013.

Contact Details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact **Tracy Casey** before noon on Thursdays at: tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.