

The Weissman School's I.D.E.A. Initiative



The **Purpose** of the Innovative, Daring, and Exceptional Approach (IDEA) initiative is to foster innovation at the Weismann School of Arts and Sciences in scholarship, pedagogy, and service.

The **Possibilities** in the area of scholarship are very diverse, but the condition is that your idea will represent a breakthrough in conventional wisdom, not just a repetition or expansion of conventional scholarship. In pedagogy, it could be a new approach to class delivery, an innovation in the curriculum, or an application of new technologies. In service, it could be a new form of out-reach or public service.

Eligibility: Any full-time WSAS faculty member.

Budget: It may range from a few hundred dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars. For the former, we could use existing money, but for the latter we will partner with College Advancement to seek external support from private foundations, corporations, or individual donors. In fact, a major donor source has already asked us to provide them with ideas they might fund.

Deadline: Open.

Selection Process: A group of four faculty members representing the four major branches of knowledge at WSAS (Fine and Performing Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics), plus the dean, will choose among the proposals. The selection will be made on the basis of (1) innovation and originality; (2) potential for challenging conventional wisdom; (3) potential influence on more than one area of knowledge.

Promotion: Proposals will be videotaped so that the originator(s) can receive feedback from multiple sources. We will also publish an open-access on-line journal, whose title will be Innovative Ideas in Higher Education. It will provide a forum for the proposals and for other successful ideas implemented by our faculty. Our hope is that the journal will establish Weissman as an intellectual center for new ideas in higher education.

Application Process: In keeping with our openness to innovation and diversity of ideas, the application process is very simple. The information you need to include is: (1) Title; (2) Name(s) of Innovator(s) and position(s) within WSAS; (3) Objective; (4) Approach; (5) Estimated Cost; (6) Why you think your idea is different; (7) What you think you will learn even if you fail to achieve your objective. Be brief. If you need too many words to explain anything, it is likely that you have not thought it through comprehensively. All proposals should be sent to the dean in electronic format. Feel free to consult the dean before submitting the proposal.

Final thoughts: Enjoy the freedom to explore big ideas and emerging technologies. Be daring but not unwise. Don't be afraid of failing, but do be afraid of being ordinary.

For more information or to submit a proposal, contact the Weissman's Dean's Office: 646-312-3865