Provost's Learning Innovations Grant for Faculty
Request for Full Proposal
2002-2003

Please send your completed grant proposal (4 pages, plus attachments), one original and eleven copies, to
Linda Jones, 4000 Eastman
by 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 20, 2002.
No hand written proposals will be accepted.
Notification of awards will be made by Friday, March 22, 2002.

Project Title:
On-line Experimental Psychology Laboratory

Applicant(s):

Name: Dr. Roger Harnish
Department: Psychology
Telephone: 475-2402
College: COLA

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1. Title: On-line Experimental Psychology Laboratory

Summary
My proposed project is the creation of an on-line Experimental Psychology Laboratory. The computer programs contained in this proposed Experimental Psychology Laboratory will allow students to participate in actual psychological experiments under controlled conditions. There will be both tutorial and experiential aspects to all of the programs. There will be two kinds of programs. One kind of program will be down-loadable for personal use by the students. The other kind of program will be strictly web-based and will collect group data for on-line or down-loadable analysis.

2. Targeted Learners
All psychology majors are required to take the Experimental Psychology course and engage in experimental laboratory experiences. In addition, a Research Methods course is taken by all minors in psychology and any elective students wishing to take this course. In the Research Methods, it is expected that all students be exposed to psychological experiments.

3. Anticipated Impact
Currently, there are only a handful of Experimental Psychology laboratory packages available, and every one of them is inadequate for the needs of the students taking the Experimental Psychology course here at RIT. The packages are either based on old and cumbersome technology or else they are designed for graduate level research. The immediate impact on teaching and learning will be to have the proper tools for the teaching/learning associated with the Experimental Psychology and Research Methods courses. In addition, the experiments will be custom designed to fit the needs of RIT’s unique psychology degree. Finally, because this will be an on-line (virtual lab), it will be available all hours of the day and night with no seating restrictions.
4. Measuring Impact

Impact will be measured in several ways. First, there will be the feedback from course evaluations. Second, a separate evaluation will be conducted specifically concerning the impact and usefulness of the lab for students. Additionally, since Experimental Psychology is the first in a sequence of Experimental activities that must be performed by our psychology majors, other faculty will be able to access the impact on student performance in their courses.

It is anticipated that the outcome of this project will be shared with other faculty in COLA in a faculty colloquium.

An advantage of having Experiments created here at RIT is that if the evaluation of any of the experiments indicates that an experiment is not producing the learning experience that it is designed to produce, it can be redone based on that feedback. This type of redesign is not possible with a purchased product.

5. Rationale

a. Not regular college business

The normal course of business is to buy Experimental Psychology laboratory packages from vendors, and that is what the Psychology Department has been doing and must continue doing if it is unable to produce its own laboratory package. However, the third party products that have been used so far have not been satisfactory. Students have complained and faculty have found the packages difficult to use. In the normal course of business, I have only had the time to create a few low level demonstrations. What is needed is the time to create well designed, full-fledged experiments. That can only be done through the release time offered by this grant.

b. Relevance to Competencies

One of the requirements for graduation with a BS in Psychology is for students to show competence in designing and conducting a psychological experiment. Experiencing well designed experiments is essential in developing these competencies.
c. Relevance to Other Faculty

This lab will be available to any faculty to use with any course they teach. Since a variety of faculty teach Experimental Psychology and Research Methods, this proposed lab has direct relevance to them. Additionally, other faculty have needs for specialized experimental packages. The success of this project may inspire them to apply for a similar grant to develop packages for their specific needs.

d. Credentials

My qualifications for successfully completing such a project are:

I have had numerous psychology computer demonstration packages published.

I have designed several computer experimental programs, used in research, that have successfully led to conference presentations.

I currently teach the Experimental Psychology course and am familiar with the needs of the students taking that course.

e. This innovation is in my discipline of Psychology.

6. Timetable

The timetable for this project is brief. I need enough free time to get the basic programs designed and implemented. I am very efficient at programming psychological projects and am convinced that I can create the appropriate materials with two course release time for one quarter. Additionally, I have asked for money for a student assistant. This assistant will help me develop and evaluate the experiments.

I am asking for the release time for Fall quarter 2002. This will allow me to finish the project by the next time the Experimental Psychology course is taught.
Grant Application Budget 2002

Funds can be used for release time, student workers, and for purchasing supplies and services (such as CD pressing, video production, digitizing, photography). Funds will generally not be available for activities consistent with normal college business, doctoral research, equipment purchase or travel (though the latter will be considered if a clear connection can be demonstrated between the project and a given conference or workshop).

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<th>Start and End Date</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
<th>Budget Officer Verification</th>
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<td><strong>SALARIES:</strong></td>
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<td>Faculty Compensation:</td>
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<td>(College guidelines for adjunct teaching pay-scale should be used.)</td>
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<td>If you are requesting adjunct faculty money, include 8% of the salary dollars requested to cover the associated benefits.</td>
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<td>If you or another full-time faculty or staff member will be paid from the grant, the rate is 22.8% for benefits.</td>
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<td>Student Assistants:</td>
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<td>(There are no benefits for graduate assistants or student workers.)</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<td>(Professional services, consultant, staff support)</td>
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<td><strong>SALARIES TOTAL</strong></td>
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| **MATERIALS:** | |
| Give kind, quantity, cost: | |
| **MATERIALS TOTAL** | $ | |

| **SERVICES:** | |
| Attach appropriate estimates. | |
| Educational Technology Center: | |
| Other: (Describe) | |
| **SERVICES TOTAL** | $ | |

**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST** 7185

**COLLEGE SUPPORT:**
Support provided by college in addition to grant request, if applicable (Explain)