April 29, 2024

Dear Resilience & Compassion Seed Grant Proposal Reviewers:

I'd like to provide my enthusiastic support for the Center for Teaching and Learning's (CTL) Resilience & Compassion Seed Grant proposal entitled, "Honoring International Faculty: Fostering an inclusive UW teaching community by listening to and supporting international faculty." The CTL's proposal to construct an instructional development initiative focused on enhancing instructional resources that support international faculty members is consistent with Academic and Student Affairs' commitment to supporting faculty in instruction and student access, learning, and success and working toward creating a leading-edge student experience.

The CTL team has an impressive track record of fostering an inclusive UW Teaching community through opportunities for dialogue. For example, its recent work listening to students who identify as neurodiverse has laid the groundwork for a web resource on supporting neurodiverse learners, which will enrich its portfolio of resources that help faculty engage and support diverse learners. Additionally, it recently hosted a listening session for faculty to surface points of confusion about the university's attendance policy and to identify challenges faculty face in assessing participation. Through projects such as these, as well as through the proposed project, CTL helps faculty build more equitable, inclusive learning spaces and imagine possibilities for social change at the individual and institutional level. The current proposal enriches this work by intentionally integrating the voices of international faculty into the development of faculty-facing resources.

This work aligns well with the efforts of both the Resilience Lab and the Campus Sustainability Fund to foster community, embrace commonalities and diversity, and cultivate kindness and compassion toward each other. Through the Seed Grant initiative, the CTL has an opportunity to deepen its connections with the Resilience Lab and to work with UW faculty to refine how it promotes the development of an equitable, inclusive UW teaching community.

Thank you for offering these seed grants. Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Best Regards,

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Philip J. Reid Vice Provost, Academic & Student Affairs Professor of Chemistry University of Washington