Establishment of and Guidelines for the Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend

I. Introduction

The SMAB hereby establishes the Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend, named after Dr. Charles Bloomer and his wife Lisa, both of whom have been ardent supporters of the SMAB and the science and math programs at McMurry University. The Bloomers reside in Abilene where they continue their unwavering support of McMurry. The SMAB extends its sincere appreciation to Charles and Lisa for their outstanding contribution to the SMAB and to McMurry at large.

II. Description

The Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend may be awarded by the SMAB once each calendar year in the amount of up to $1500. The Stipend will allow a student to work on a research project or other project for the betterment of one of the departments in the school of natural and computational sciences (SNCS). The purpose of the Stipend is to recognize significant educational achievement and to promote the application of math and science concepts in practical situations.

The Stipend will pay minimum wage plus 20% for up to 10 hours per week until the $1500 is exhausted. McMurry will withhold taxes as necessary out of the $1500 stipend (i.e., the stipend is gross instead of net). In addition to the $1500, the Stipend may also cover the cost of approved materials and supplies.

III. Administration

Candidates must be nominated by the sponsoring professor submitting the Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend Nomination Form to the SNCS Dean, at least one month prior to the SMAB spring semester meeting. Each nomination must meet the minimum requirements set forth below and ideally will address as many of the potential evaluation criteria as possible so that the SMAB will have adequate information upon which to base its decision. The SMAB will strive to make a decision at its spring semester meeting but may also make a decision in any manner permitted by the SMAB Bylaws.

Although there is no formal limit on when a project must commence, any unused funds will be withdrawn if the recipient fails to meet the minimum requirements or completes the project. Stipend funds that have not been used after one calendar year from the date of approval will be withdrawn.

The SMAB will verify and designate the source of funds (i.e., account) for the stipend and approved expenses when each project is approved.

Each project must be sponsored and overseen by at least one SNCS professor, reviewed as necessary by the SNCS Dean, and managed by the SMAB.

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IV. Minimum Requirements

A. Candidate must be a math or science major

B. Candidate must be enrolled at least as a full-time student (if the project is for summer work, the candidate must have been full-time the preceding semester)

C. Candidate must be in good standing with McMurry

D. Recommendation must include purpose and description of the work project, including the candidate's responsibilities

E. Upon completion of the project, the candidate must provide the SMAB with a final deliverable, the content of which will be determined by the SMAB

V. Potential Evaluation Criteria (holistic and non-binding; not in any order)

A. Grade Point Average

B. Leadership ability, actual and potential

C. Level of instructional talent, as compared to other/former students

D. Classification/Grade Level

E. Character, as related to McMurry's core values

F. Dedication and commitment to McMurry and higher education in general

G. Service – involvement at the McMurry, local, state, and/or national levels

H. Extracurricular activities and interests

I. Need for assistance

VI. Amendment and Restrictions

The SMAB may, by simple majority vote of its members, in accordance with its Bylaws, change the requirements, administration, and/or criteria for the Stipend at any time.

The SMAB may choose not to approve a Stipend in a given year, depending on the number and quality of nominations received.