Dear Colleagues,

This memo is a call for nominations for the 2014/15 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) program. Awards in the amount of $1,500 each are available for undergraduate students to: undertake research under the mentorship and guidance of a faculty member; present their research at the yearly JCURA Research Fair; and have the opportunity to publish results in UVic’s peer-reviewed online journal – the Arbutus Review.

Eligible students include all full-time 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students (normally registered in 12 or more units of study in the winter session of the academic year in which the award is given) in excellent academic standing (normally this is a minimum sessional GPA requirement of 7.0) who satisfy the general regulations of Student Awards and Financial Aid. Award recipients will undertake a research investigation in dialogue with, and under the mentorship of, a faculty supervisor. Each academic unit is eligible for 1, 2 or 3 student nominations per year depending on the number of students in the unit. Each unit can determine how many students they are eligible to nominate by checking the list.

We have streamlined the nomination process. It is now all on one form that passes between nominee and supervisor, and then on to the unit Chair/Director or designate. The nomination form can be found here. You do not need to rank your eligible nominees. Also please do not send more than your academic unit’s eligibility. We will put out a second call in September should we have awards left over to distribute.

For your convenience, we have established a “rolling” deadline for receipt of nominations – units may submit their nominees to the Learning and Teaching Centre (LTC) beginning on May 31, 2014 and through until September 15, 2014. The LTC, and the office of Student
Awards and Financial Aid, will process nominees as they come in. This way students will
know as soon as possible if they are going to be receiving the award, and supervisors will also
know as soon as possible if their students have been successful. For this reason, units may
submit nominees any time within this period. However, we strongly prefer that units please
collect all their eligible nominations together and submit them in one group all at the
same time. In addition, all nominations must come directly from the Chair/Director or
designate, not from the potential supervisor, since this caused some confusion in the past.

I encourage everyone to broadcast information about this program widely. As you may be
aware, there is a great deal of flexibility as to the nature of the research in which
undergraduates can participate. Please spread the word and help as many as possible
exceptional undergraduates take advantage of this opportunity. In addition, any potential
students (or new supervisors) who are interested should be encouraged to attend the
upcoming JCURA Research Fair on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM
in the SUB. This is the best possible way for potential students (and their supervisors) to see
the range of possibilities for them.

Based on feedback, we have also updated the FAQ for the JCURA. If you have any other
questions about the program, please contact the Learning and Teaching Centre.

All the best for a successful undergraduate research year in 2014/15.

Best wishes,
Teresa

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