***FAS HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES***

***BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGERS’ MEETING***

*August 3, 2016 - 10:00am / TEMP370, Rm 106 CLS Library*

Professor Kathryn Lofton (Chair of Religious Studies and FAS Deputy Dean for Diversity and Faculty Development) gave a presentation to the FAS Business Operations Managers’ about the availability of financial support for each department and/or program to help them on two fronts:

1. Diversity
   1. Money is available to create a more inclusive common space (area that people gather in each community) in buildings and offices through the use of public art. This could be as simple as posting photographs of current program contributors on a bulletin board near the staff offices or the hallway. It could also mean including representations of leading figures in each field – past and present – who represent its full diversity. Another option might be to showcase the range of alumni from each program. The overarching aim is for the current faculty members, staff and grad/undergrad student body in each department and/or program be represented in some physical and visual way; to let the physical spaces be a visual representation of the members of that community. It has been argued that small adjustments to visual environments can have a significant impact on the sense of community. (If the requested amount of funding exceeds $500, please email Katie in advance so that she can ensure there are sufficient resources available.)
2. Faculty Development
   1. Money is available to fund events or any other ideas that will help in the retention of faculty members. (Chairs should not hesitate to reach out to the FAS Dean’s office if they know of a faculty member who is thinking about leaving the university.)
      1. Chairs and/or faculty members can reach out to Professor Lofton with a 1 page proposal explaining how the requested funding will be used to showcase the research and/or scholarly work of a faculty member to leaders in his or her respective field. An example might be to organize a manuscript or research colloquium for work in progress so that untenured faculty can receive high-level feedback from scholars at peer institutions.