Ph.D. Innovation Initiative (PII)

Sponsored by the JHU Doctor of Philosophy Board
Rationale for PII

• Ph.D. education in the U.S. is under increasing pressure and scrutiny
  – Time to degree is growing longer
  – Fewer students moving into academic careers
  – Need for interdisciplinary education
  – Global competition
  – New models for financing Ph.D. education

• Time is right for re-examination and re-vitalization of Ph.D. education at JHU
Rationale for PII

• Ideas for change can come from the outside, top-down:
  – Re-accreditation 2012/2013 will include a committee specifically charged with evaluating Ph.D. education across the university and developing recommendations

• Ideas for change can come from within, bottom-up:
  – PII provides incentives for programs, departments, faculty and students to identify specific problems and propose specific solutions

• JHU can be at the forefront of innovation in Ph.D. education
  – President and Provost have committed $1M for first year of PII, with a second call approx. one year later
Request for Proposals

• **Goal:** To identify and fund bold, creative ideas that will address identified problems, challenges, obstacles, opportunities and contribute to transforming Ph.D. education at JHU and elsewhere

• **Who can submit?** Individual/groups of faculty, Ph.D. with faculty mentors, programs, etc.

• **Budget and project period:** Max of 2 years, individual project budgets cannot exceed $200K

• **Application deadline:** Nov. 30, 2012

• **Decision announcement/earliest funding start:** Feb 1, 2013
Topics

• Topics should respond to a clearly identified problem, challenge, opportunity or obstacle in a program or discipline; examples:
  – Strengthening interdisciplinarity/disciplinarity
  – Measuring outcomes
  – New pathways to career success
  – Removing barriers to completion
  – Lessening time to degree
  – Improved mentoring
  – Broadening participation to under-represented groups
  – New educational resources and strategies
Review

Review Process: Doctor of Philosophy Board will convene a faculty committee with representation from the Ph.D. granting schools to evaluate each proposal.

Review Criteria:

1) Likelihood of **impact** on a significant problem.
2) **Sustainability** of proposed innovations beyond the grant period.
3) **Support** from relevant parties (e.g., Ph.D. programs, faculty, dean, etc.)
4) Quality of **assessment** plan with measurable goals and outcomes
5) **Portability** of results to other Ph.D. programs
1. Title and abstract (limit ½ page)

2. Project Description (limit 4 pages)
   - Problem being addressed
   - Proposed project and goals
   - Significance and potential impact
   - Preliminary or pilot work (if applicable)
   - Specific anticipated outcomes
   - Sustainability

3. Project Plan and Timeline (limit 1 page)

4. Evaluation and assessment plan (limit 1 page)

5. References

6. Budget

7. Appendices
   1. Short biosketches of key participants
   2. Optional letters of support from relevant parties
For Further Info

http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/initiatives/phd_board/
Interim Provost: Jonathan Bagger (bagger@jhu.edu)
Chair of DPB: Brenda Rapp (rapp@cogsci.jhu.edu)