

# **The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation**

## **Announcement of Faculty Research Retreats**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

A core goal of the Ash Institute is to stimulate thinking on the principles of democracy and to support discussion on how democratic institutions and processes can best be adapted to diverse conditions around the world. The Ash Institute seeks to provide the resources to support small groups of senior and junior faculty seeking to collaborate on new ideas and to identify possible research directions on the most pressing challenges facing democracy today.

The Ash Institute will provide grants up to \$10,000 for faculty research retreats. The retreats are envisioned as informal seminars taking place over one to three days. The Institute encourages participation of faculty across Harvard, although the leader/chair of the retreat must be from the Kennedy School. Priority will be given to proposals that include junior as well as senior faculty at the Kennedy School. We envision groups of between 6-12 participants.

Funds may be budgeted to invite scholars from other institutions who would make the discussion particularly fruitful. Other expenses may include food costs of the seminar, research assistance to compile and distribute reading materials, and rental of audio-visual equipment. The Institute will arrange for space and help with logistics.

The goal of the retreats is to provide faculty with structured time to meet, talk, and develop ideas around essential questions of democracy. No final product will be required or expected, with the exception of a brief report to the Institute from the retreat leader. We seek to enhance intellectual exploration, encourage the participation of junior faculty, and provide the means to bring leading scholars from different institutions to the Kennedy School for discussion and stimulation.

### **PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**Proposal Deadline: January 28, 2008** with decisions announced in early February. Grants will be available beginning March 1, 2008.

**Award Process:** Please submit a brief application to include the following:

- I. Name and contact information of the Faculty Retreat Leader.
- II. One paragraph summarizing idea of the retreat, with significance or potential for further scholarship.
- III. One page list of the participants, with brief description of special expertise or perspective each would bring to the retreat. Indicate which participants you have already discussed the possibility of participating.
- IV. Month and year in which you would prefer to hold the seminar (to be finalized with Ash Institute once proposal is accepted).
- V. Budget up to \$10,000 (many proposals will be for much less) to include meals, materials, audio visual, and travel expenses for non-Harvard faculty.

Decisions will be made by a committee composed of the Academic Dean, the Institute's Director, and the Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

**Submission Contact:** Proposals should be submitted electronically to: [bruce\\_jackan@ksg.harvard.edu](mailto:bruce_jackan@ksg.harvard.edu)