

Contact: Anthony Girardi

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENT REQUEST – UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending the Board approve the University of Iowa's request for a professional development assignment for FY 2007.

**Executive Summary:** The university is requesting permission to award the second of two Global Scholars assignments which will begin in FY 2007. Global Scholars awards are a type of professional development assignment issued by the University of Iowa. The university reviewed and approved the present request consistent with the time line and procedures applied to all other FY 2007 professional development assignment requests, which the Board has already approved. The university's Provost's Office and the Board Office have reviewed the request and recommend it for Board consideration.

The description of this PDA request is as follows:

Stephen Bloom, Professor  
Journalism & Mass Communication  
13 years of service

Professor Bloom will travel internationally to conduct interviews and research which will result in a book examining issues of globalization, culture, colonialism, and the human spirit. The experience gained from this project will add to Professor Bloom's strength as a teacher of journalism and non-fiction writing, in which he emphasizes a style of reporting that requires the writer to spend considerable time with subjects in order to understand their lives and stories.

**Background:**

Professional development assignments (PDAs) release faculty members from classroom and other obligations to pursue research and other creative projects. In the case of the University of Iowa's Global Scholars Awards, such assignments may include up to \$5,500 per year to cover research-related expenses. The University of Iowa's Global Scholars Program provides faculty members the opportunity to conduct research on international topics and issues for a semester each year for two years.

Faculty recipients of PDAs are selected on the basis of a system of peer review and recommendation at both the department and college levels. The Board Policy Manual §4.09 requires institutional requests to be submitted for Board approval.