

Guidelines for the Operation of the John and Marie Noble Endowment for  
Historical Research  
Department of History University of Nevada, Reno

The purpose of the John and Marie Noble Endowment for Historical Research is to facilitate faculty research within the Department of History and to encourage the publication of those research findings. As such, the Endowment is viewed as a long-term opportunity for the Department to become nationally recognized as a major research department. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide faculty the opportunity to participate so that they might reach their potential as scholars and to help the Department enhance its reputation as a place where serious scholarship occurs on an ongoing basis. The guidelines are also intended to provide reasonable assurance that the objective of the donors to encourage excellence in the world of research and serious scholarship is achieved. Thus the following guidelines are established:

1. --Only tenure-track and tenured faculty in the Department of History are eligible to participate.
2. --Those faculty who hold other appointments external to the department, such as administrative assignments, may participate but at a level proportional to the percentage of their time allocated to the department.
3. --Faculty who hold the Griffen Chair, currently funded University Foundation Professorships, or other endowed professorships that provide research funding will not be eligible to participate.
4. --Faculty members who accept emeritus status may utilize remaining funds existing in their accounts for a twelve month period after retirement subject to the approval of the Department Chair. However, upon the conferment of emeritus status no new funds will be forthcoming.
5. --This is a special program restricted to accepted standards for professional historical research. Participating faculty members will normally conduct research within the general framework of their individual specialized teaching responsibilities within the Department. Faculty may use these funds to support all reasonable research-related activities, such as: professional travel to research libraries, archives, and other research locations; travel to professional meetings; purchase of research materials; employment of student research assistants; manuscript preparation and submission; and publication subvention.
6. --Each eligible faculty may or may not elect to participate. The first step is the submission of a five year research plan that will be reviewed by the Noble Research Committee. This plan should not exceed one or two pages and should present a flexible research plan that outlines major long term goals and objectives. This plan should describe in general terms the major research focus for the five year period, identify in general the types of activities to be funded, and anticipated outcomes. During the five year period, it is possible for the faculty member to submit an addendum or modification if unanticipated research opportunities present themselves that will

result in the faculty member moving in a distinctly new direction in his/her research. Participating faculty and committee members are to be guided by the principle that the operative words for this five year plan are flexible and general. Near the end of the five year period the faculty member will submit a written report to the Committee that summarizes the research program that has been conducted. Upon approval of the plan by the Committee, a special account will be established in the department office over which the faculty will exercise control. All expenditures will follow established university policies, will be done through the department secretary, and require the signature of the Department Chair. Each participating faculty will be granted an equal percentage of the total funds available annually for an initial five year period beginning on July 1, 2001. On that date and for the next four years on July 1st additional funds will be deposited into the individual accounts, the amount being determined by the performance of the Endowment, but at no time will any one year award exceed \$5000 or be less than \$500. The funds in each account may be expended each year or allowed to accumulate, thereby giving each faculty substantial control over his/her own research account. Unexpended funds may be carried forward after the initial five year period has elapsed. The objective of this flexible money management concept is to encourage participating faculty to approach their research obligations as a long-term process.

7. --Initial proposals are due in the Department Office no later than March 1st. The five year reports are due on the same date in the final year of the plan. New members of the department appointed to tenure track positions may submit initial proposals at a later time depending upon circumstances; at the time of their hiring the Department Chair should make arrangements for submission of the initial plan so that new members may participate in the Noble research program beginning with their first year's appointment.

8. --The Noble Research Committee will be appointed annually by the Department Chair and will consist of three voting members, two of whom will be appointed from within the department and one who is not a member of the department. The Department Chair may not serve on the committee. It is recommended that the Chair appoint individuals who are not members of the Department Executive Committee. The Chair is further encouraged to attempt to make these appointments so as to provide a reasonable level of continuity within the committee and to provide for rotation of membership. It is recommended that no person serve for more than three consecutive years.

9. --Each participating faculty member accepts the responsibility to use these funds to produce peer reviewed scholarship--normally in the form of published articles and books. The presentation of papers at academic conferences is viewed, within the context of this program, not as an end in itself, but rather as one important step toward the publication of peer reviewed articles and books. The participant agrees to submit to a review of his/her accomplishments at the end of the initial five year funding cycle and each five years thereafter. This review will be conducted by the Noble Research Committee. After conducting the five year review, and reviewing the new five year research proposal, the committee will determine one of several possible outcomes. These include: recommendation for continuation at full or reduced levels of funding, or for the individual to be denied funding completely. Any decision that includes reduction or complete removal will be accompanied by a written statement indicating

the reasons for that decision and the steps needed to be taken to accomplish readmission to the research program. Readmission may occur only after a minimum one year period and after a demonstration of the ability to publish in peer reviewed venues is established. The basic criteria for this five year review will be the same standards established by the University evaluation system for research, including a reasonable--but not strict--correlation to the approved research plan. Thus each faculty member who elects to participate must understand that they are committing themselves to a sustained period of serious scholarship. Faculty members may appeal committee decisions through established university appeal processes.

10. --After initial approval, the Department at any time may revisit these guidelines if two-thirds of the voting members concur. Any changes will require a two-thirds vote. Any changes in these guidelines must be consistent with the formal Agreement signed by John Noble and the University Foundation officials, and must be approved by the Foundation before they become effective.

11. --As a condition of participation, the individual faculty member agrees to acknowledge the support of the John and Marie Noble Endowment for Historical Research in all publications that were supported totally or in part by the Endowment.