IBM LECTURE FUND
GUIDELINES FOR AWARD
2008

The IBM Lecture Funds were given to the college in 1982 for the purpose of attracting to the college speakers of national and international reputation in science and technology. Specifically, the intent of the gift is to attract speakers in the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Administrative Science, Environmental Studies, and Science, Technology and Society. Faculty (or groups of faculty) in the aforementioned departments and programs are invited to submit proposals for funding to bring speakers to Colby who have significant stature both within their particular field of science or technology, and who address issues of society-wide importance.

The IBM Lecture Fund Committee consists of the chairs of the Departments of Administrative Science, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Physics and Astronomy; the program directors of Environmental Studies, and of Science, Technology, and Society; and the chair of the Natural Sciences Division. The Committee is responsible for awarding of funds.

The IBM Lecture Fund Guidelines
1) Proposals should be submitted to the chair of the Natural Sciences Division. The proposal should be signed by the sponsoring faculty member(s) and the appropriate department or program chair(s) or director(s). Normally, only one proposal per faculty host will be considered each year. Preference may be given to proposals from faculty who have not hosted an IBM lecturer in the recent past. Please note that these funds are not intended as a substitute for regular departmental/program lecture funds.

2) To enhance the opportunity for interdisciplinary speakers, as well as accepting proposals from individual departments, the committee will consider joint proposals from groups of two to three departments or programs.

3) The proposals should be concise: name of suggested candidate, a brief description of the person’s expertise, the subject(s) to be presented, constituencies on campus that may be interested, and a provisional budget. Please include brief responses to points 4, 5 and 6 (see below) indicating how these issues will be addressed.

Budget Allowable expenses, which must be itemized in the proposed budget, include honorarium, travel, accommodation, publicity, and hospitality on campus. The IBM Lecture Fund Committee wants to maximize the campus impact of the invited speakers. Therefore, you should address the following in any proposal to the Committee.

4) To maximize the impact of the IBM Lectures on the campus, it would be preferable to have a speaker stay for two to three days, and give at least two public talks. One talk should be designed for a general, interdisciplinary audience and presented in the evening. The second presentation could be aimed at a general audience or one in the visitor’s discipline. We also encourage the speaker to participate in discussions with specific classes and to hold informal discussions with students and faculty on topics of common interest.

5) To give faculty and students an opportunity to interact with the speaker in a social environment, and (we hope) to leave the invited speaker with a favorable view of Colby, reasonable entertainment expenses can be included as part of the proposal for support from the IBM fund. Although not a requirement, a catered on campus dinner has proved to be one way to address this goal successfully.

6) The proposal should include a plan and budget, if any, for publicizing of the event by the host department(s) or program(s) both on campus and within CBB.