

Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Filled by Administration Office)

Applications should be written in language understandable to a non-specialist, and should be limited to six pages in length. Please submit applications to the Dean's Office by the date specified within your Faculty, for forwarding to the Office of the Vice Provost and Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs by November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. **Please contact your Dean's Office for local deadlines.** Please use MS Word version if you wish to save changes.

**Project Title:**  
TERRY TALKS – INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE – *Ideas that Inspire Action.*

**Principal Applicant's Name:** Chad Hyson **Email:**  
*For administrative purposes, this person should be a member of UBC's Faculty or Staff. All correspondence to this application will be addressed to the Principal Applicant.*

**Faculty/VP:** VP Student Portfolio **Department/School:**

**Names and Affiliations of Other Applicants:**  
Dr. Allen Sens, Chair of International Relations Program, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts  
Dr. David Ng, Director, Advanced Molecular Biology Laboratory, Michael Smith Labs, Faculty of Science

**This project is:**  Request for continued funding  New

**This request is for:**  2<sup>nd</sup> year  3<sup>rd</sup> year  
*For continued projects one-page progress report is required.*

Previously submitted but not funded

**Budget Requested from TLEF 2008/2009:** \$ 61,250 **From Other Sources:** \$ 27,000

**If this is a request for continued funding please provide the following information:**

<b>Historical TLEF Funding for this Project:</b>	<b>Future TLEF Requests Anticipated for this Project:</b>
Year: \$	Year: \$
Year: \$	

**If this is a New Project:**

<input type="checkbox"/> This Project will Require Funding for One Year Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Future TLEF Requests are Anticipated for this Project
	Year: \$
	Year: \$

**Other TLEF-funded Projects Currently Held by the Principal Applicant:**

**Project Title:**

TERRY TALKS – INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE – *Ideas that Inspire Action.*

**Project Summary** (150 words maximum)

To date, the Terry Project has created a speaker series that invites dynamic high profile speakers who promote interdisciplinary perspectives to addressing global issues. Though the response has been overwhelmingly positive this model presents a number of logistical and financial challenges that makes it difficult to expand. Instead of looking beyond our community for expertise and inspiration, we would like to propose a concurrent sustainable model through the creation of annual interdisciplinary conference where undergraduates are given a high profile platform to communicate their passions and desires on local and global issues to an audience of their UBC peers. It essentially borrows a template from a well-established conference known as the TEDtalks ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)), and modifies it for delivery within the UBC community. Here, the general intent is to bring together the University's "most fascinating (student) thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives." The featured talks will be a synthesis of the student's academic knowledge, personal experience, passion, and desire to bring about positive change both locally and globally. Under this context, a single day conference would accommodate 16 nominated student speakers with diverse interests and backgrounds. This would provide stimulating content, relevant to a variety of globally relevant issues that would promote the sharing of ideas through dialogue amongst the conference attendees. In all, this will strengthen the existing networks responsible for student led initiatives, and in doing so act as a significant catalyst in creating a stronger socially responsible UBC community.

**Provide a clear statement of the project's rationale and objectives and how it meets TLEF criteria.**

Our primary rationale submits that an active and collaborative student community is not just a critical component of their education, but also a powerful precursor to the success of student led initiatives. This is especially pertinent when such initiatives are responding to the challenges of a global society: challenges that by virtue of their complexity and magnitude, can only benefit from the concerted actions of many individuals from many diverse (academic, cultural or social) backgrounds. Based on our experiences with the Terry project, which aimed to look at creating dialogue between different academic communities, and also aimed to guide such interactions under the theme of globally relevant issues, it was noted that many excellent students and student groups frequently acted in relative isolation. That is, despite the presence of many like-minded student groups, at times organizing similarly themed projects, there often appeared to be little coordination involved to maximize the efficiency and success of such projects. Given the dynamic and fluid nature of social networks, the reasons for this lack of communication are many and varied. However, we believe that an important step to addressing this limitation is to simply provide an opportunity where the students themselves have a mechanism to advocate their passions and desires in a way that can directly and intimately reach out to a large number of their peers. Furthermore, in this context, where the ideas can breed both familiarity and inspiration, we feel it is also crucial to provide a venue that easily facilitates this process and encourages networking and dialogue.

Ultimately, the desired effect of these efforts is that the influence of the student voice can be significantly enhanced, which in turn will only positively impact on the many values and goals presented in both TLEF criteria and UBC's TREK 2010 objectives. Indeed, the first strategy under the *Learning* pillar of the Trek 2010 Operational Timetable 2005-2006 actively seeks "*the Faculty-directed creation of new courses, the augmentation of existing courses, modified promotion/graduation requirements, and **expanded co-curricular opportunities**, (that) ensures all students develop a greater awareness of their responsibilities as global citizens and the issues surrounding social, environmental, and economic sustainability.*" In this respect, this TLEF project represents an exciting opportunity towards this goal.

**Provide a clear explanation of the methods used which would allow meeting the noted objectives.**

As previously stated, we plan on hosting a one day undergraduate student conference that essentially follows the template exhibited by the TEDtalks conference. Here the day is organized around 4 - 2 hour sessions (likely organized by theme), where each session will host the opportunity for 4 students to present an idea they are passionate about to the entire audience. Interspersed between these four sessions, will be 3 scheduled breaks where attendees are encouraged to engage in discussion – these breaks will be casual in nature and planned in such a way as to allow all attendees to access each other (no small breakout sessions). Here, the primary objective is to simply make these breaks conducive to networking and sharing ideas. As well, the last of the four speaking sessions will be special, in that the students selected for this privilege will be also asked to make a "wish." Like the TEDtalks principle, the idea is that the wish presented in this context will inspire all attendees, who are noteworthy because they themselves represent some of the most active proponents of change at UBC, to work towards the same or similar goals.

We hope to have 1,100 attendees at the event, 550 will be invited undergraduate students who are recognized as campus leaders actively engaged in creating positive change on campus and beyond. The remaining 550 spots will be open on a first come first serve basis to students (undergraduate & graduate), faculty, staff, & alumni.

The success of the conference in our view lies in ensuring that we assemble a group of undergraduate students who represent the rich diversity of UBC who share the common desire to bring about positive change both locally and globally. Because we see this as an extension of the UBC Terry project - a project which has amassed an impressive network across Faculties and Student Groups - we feel that we are already in an excellent position to develop a process that will bring the right group of students together.

As well, this project is intent on creating a sustainable process that will allow the conference to continue annually with logistics in place to minimize future labor and funding needs.

Therefore, the funding we request is largely focused on the following two elements. (1) Funding directly related to the logistical cost of the conference itself; and (2) funding necessary for the hiring of a student team who will help us develop a process to ensure that the conference will achieve the goals outlined in this proposal.

**Describe expected outcomes and explain how this project will contribute to enhancement of teaching and**

**learning (how many students will benefit from this project; what are the direct, short-term benefits; what are the sustainable benefits, etc.).**

This event represents a remarkable opportunity to: (1) bring together students who are actively involved both on and off campus; (2) strengthen networks and relationships within the UBC community; and (3) perhaps most importantly, allow for the sharing of new ideas and perspectives that create focal points for dialogue and action.

***Short term benefits:***

- \* This will be a unique and empowering experience for the students hired for the student team, who will play a prominent role in planning the conference.
- \* Time and again, our outstanding students receive top honours as they represent UBC internationally at Debating Competitions, Case Study Competitions, Model United Nations, and Design Competitions - yet their achievements go unnoticed in our own community. The conference will provide a venue for them to share their ideas with their peers.
- \* For those who are selected to deliver “the talk of their lives” this has the potential to be a transformational life experience that will only reinforce their passion and desire to bring about positive change.
- \* For those in attendance, they will have the opportunity to explore new perspectives and share ideas on complex local and global issues, which aids in the development of a variety of necessary skill foundations to become leaders of positive change.
- \* Given the degree of overall support from a multitude of Departments and groups, this conference will represent another excellent opportunity for students to be exposed to peers from a wide range of backgrounds, interests, and academic disciplines.
- \* The presentations, as well as accompanying material, will continue to be available online (at <http://terry.ubc.ca>) for archiving and for continued free public access. It is envisioned that many of these archived resources could be used as invaluable educational tools, a way to identify and profile our outstanding students, or simply a point of inspiration to a much wider audience.

***Sustainable Benefits:***

- \* The continued use of a student team. Based on previous experience, we find that exciting projects are amenable to attracting high caliber students who are still prepared to work under fiscally restrictive conditions (i.e. Directed Studies, Internship, Co-Op, etc).
- \* Through the sharing of ideas on local and global issues and creating an opportunity for networking and dialogue it is our hope that it will provide focal points that inspire action in the student community that will generate a ripple effect that will lead to collaborations and initiatives that will have lasting impact.
- \* Archiving all material and A/V representations of the presentations is relatively simple to do and provides a free accessible databank of the project and a compelling online resource.
- \* We sincerely hope and confidently predict that this project will foster further creative interdisciplinary work. As the importance of global citizenry expands, we feel that this initiative will make great strides in providing an invigorating catalyst for future collaborations between various communities on campus.
- \* This Terry related project represents yet another interdisciplinary collaboration between faculty, staff, and students across the physical and life sciences and the social sciences and humanities which will help to create a seamless learning environment and will serve as a model for future partnerships across campus.

**Describe the evaluation process (how will success be determined; what outcome-based criteria will be used by which the success of this project will be determined).**

Feedback and evaluation will be closely monitored at all levels. We will employ a wide range of measures to maintain objectivity, including feedback from students who participate in the proposed initiatives, focus-group sessions, event attendance, web traffic, comments from faculty and staff in the planning, delivery and review phases, and feedback from the experts and collaborators whose strengths we will draw upon.

We also envision that an active evaluation of the project can be achieved by closely monitoring movement of the “wishes” made, and to provide progress reports on the website as their status develops. This way, we can also assess possible tangible effects from this initiative.

**Describe the student involvement in preparing and/or reviewing this proposal.**

Elements involved in the preparation of this proposal very much included the collective insight and opinion of a variety of students who work with us presently, or have worked with us in the past. This includes members of our current student team – Laurence Butet-Roch, for instance, offers this insight:

“Last year, as a ‘graduating’ student, I was invited to the Arts Faculty ‘Emerging Leaders’ reception. As I entered the room, I saw few familiar faces. Given the title of the event, I knew that the other attendees had been involved in the UBC community, but knew very little of their involvement. Unfortunately, the reception did not allow for me to learn about the commitment, activities and inspirations of most of those in the room. Nor did it allow me to hear about the involvement and passions of students outside my faculty. When, on occasion, I meet a fellow student and learn of their involvement, I am always impressed by their enthusiasm and fervor. I am equally astonished by the fact that I had never heard of that initiative before. I think UBC as a community has a lot to gain from a conference such as the proposed Terry Student Conference. Not only will students be inspired but it will also strengthen their attachment to the university as a place of idea-sharing, activism and innovation. Giving the students the opportunity to express themselves will enhance their impression that the university is committed to the empowerment of students and is recognizing the importance of listening to emergent thinkers and doers – for they are our future.

As part of the Terry student team for the summer-fall of 2007, I have come to appreciate the necessity of bridging the gap between different faculties, student clubs and individuals from different backgrounds. An important part of my involvement with Terry was communicating the vision and activities of Terry to students on campus. Every time, the response was overwhelmingly positive; students are yearning for more opportunities to learn from the experiences of their peers and share their passions.”

Also of note, we are privy to opinions that can be expressed via our website. Terry.ubc.ca currently commands a readership of approximately 1000 to 1300 readers per day, and when the idea of this event was first brought to light on the website, it was noted that the feedback was overwhelmingly positive (18 out of 18 comments).

**Total Budget** (indicate funds requested from TLEF and any funding from other sources, received (R) or applied (A) for)  
**Include detailed information on salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, and provide justification for each expenditure.**

Description with Justification	Unit Cost	Total Cost
TLEF Project Supervisor (10% Dr. David Ng)	~\$8000 (R)	
TLEF Project Supervisor (10% Dr. Allen Sens)	~\$8000 (R)	
TLEF Project Supervisor (10% Chad Hyson)	~\$8000 (R)	
Terry.ubc.ca Web Server	~\$3000 (R)	
Undergraduate Academic Assistants for development conference program, and in preparation of conference logistics. x3 (full time summer positions plus part time commitment during the 2006 school year)	8,750.00(summer) 2,500.00 (winter)	\$26,250.00 \$7,500.00
Chan Centre Rental (Full Day) + screen rentals	~\$5500.00	\$5500.00
Lunch Catering for Attendees (target of 1000 attendees)	~\$20.00	~\$22,000.00
		<b>\$61,250.00</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Applicant's Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head's (or equivalent) Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean's Signature & Date

Dean's Ranking (optional): # of

**Please limit application to a total of 6 pages (including the cover page). Proposals for continued funding require an additional one-page report. Please note that the Committee will not consider any additional material.**