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2013-2014 Instructional Development Grant Application

Name Nancy Sultan

Year of tenure-track appointment 1993

Course(s): GRS 212, 214

Hum 101

Greek/Latin 101, 102, 201

Hist 370 Blood Rites & Mystery Cults

Is this your first ID grant application? Yes No

If your proposal is funded, would you be willing for the Mellon Center to use it as an exemplary submission in the online *Handbook*? Yes No

Please complete the following checklist by placing a check mark against each item to insure that your application is complete. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant without further consideration.

- 1. Detailed description (1-2 pages, Times or Times Roman, 12 point)
- 2. Budget Page



Supervisor's signature (indicates that the requested funds are not available from the department)

Instructional Development Grant 2013
Submitted by Nancy Sultan for Greek & Roman Studies

Date: 10/16/13

I am applying for the ID grant to purchase a number of musical instruments and props that we use regularly in several GRS courses and use in co-curricular activities. We frequently stage readings and performances of plays and re-enactments of religious festivals and ritual in the drama courses (GRS 212, 214), mythology and Humanities (GRS/REL 210, HUM 101), and history courses (e.g. GRS 370 Blood Rites & Mystery Cults"). We also stage short plays in Greek and Latin language courses. In past years we have borrowed instruments and props from the School of Music and the School of Theatre Arts, made them ourselves, or bought them with the GRS budget. Although my colleagues in the SoTA and SoM have been very generous, they do not have everything we need and can't always help us out. We do not have enough in our GRS budget to designate its entirety for the purchase of these most often needed items.

It is important for students to re-enact and re-create ancient practices, to the extent that it is possible, in order for them to experience and come to a better understanding of the cultures in their proper contexts. This past May, for example, in my GRS 213 Greek and Roman Comedy course, we re-created the Roman festival of the Megalensia and staged a reading of a Roman comedy. This required a full compliment of costumes, properties, makeup, musical instruments, and a stage backdrop. Money for this production was provided by Marina Balina from her Endowed Funk Professorship, and we borrowed costumes, props, and musical instruments from the SoTA and the SoM. Since GRS faculty plan to continue to produce these kinds of events for our students, it is much more practical to have commonly used items on hand and readily available. Music is an essential part of Greek and Roman ritual and performances. The

instruments that I will purchase will replicate the ancient ones as close as possible. Mask is an essential part of the costume for Greek and Roman theatre. Curtis Trout has agreed to assign to the students in his Spring 2014 THEA 312/313 Properties courses the task of making a set of stock character masks for Greek and Roman theatre. These full-face masks will be used over and over, in more than one GRS class. The masks and instruments can also be made available to other faculty for student use in other courses and theatre productions. Thus, the ID grant to obtain these items will ensure that we have essential performance supplies for many of our GRS and wider university curricular and co-curricular events for years to come.

The budget page reflects prices for the instruments as listed on Amazon.com and an estimate of materials cost for the mask creation. Any additional cost for Curtis' masks, up to \$200, will be paid for from the GRS department budget and a generous one-time donation from Marina Balina's Funk Endowed Professorship.