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 or Principal's Office by the date specified within your Faculty or College, for forwarding to the Office of the Vice Provost and Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs by 4:30pm on Monday, November 23rd, 2009. **Please contact your Dean's Office for local deadlines**. Please use MS Word version if you wish to save changes.*

Project Title: UBC MIX Project - Creating Interdisciplinary Connections in Classrooms at UBC

Principal Applicant's Name: Dr. Joanne Fox   Email: joanne@msl.ubc.ca
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: Students   Department/School: Student Development

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Names and Affiliations of Other Applicants:
Geoff Costeloe, 5th year Student, Double Major in Integrated Science and Political Science
Chad Hyson, Associate Director, Student Development
David Ng, Director, Advanced Molecular Biology Labs, Michael Smith Laboratories, Faculty of Science
Allens Sens, Chair International Relations Program, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts

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

This request is for: ☐ 2nd year   ☐ 3rd year
           For continued projects please attach one-page Progress Report to the application.

          ☐ **Previously submitted but not funded**

Budget Requested from TLEF 2010/2011: $16,650   From Other Sources: $17,000

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

Historical TLEF Funding for this Project: **Future TLEF Requests Anticipated for this Project:**
Year: $ Year: $
Year: $

If this is a New Project:

☐ **This Project will Require Funding for One Year Only**

☒ **Future TLEF Requests are Anticipated for this Project**

          Year: 2011 $16,650
          Year: 2012 $16,650

Other TLEF-funded Projects Currently Held by the Principal Applicant:
Co-applicant for 1) TERRY TALKS – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENT JAM – Ideas that Inspire Action
Co-applicant for 2) University of British Columbia International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) team

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Project Title: UBC MIX Project - Creating Interdisciplinary Connections in Classrooms at UBC

Project Summary *(150 words maximum)*

UBC MIX is a project that creates new learning experiences for UBC students by developing cross-discipline and cross-faculty partnerships between courses already taught at UBC. UBC MIX brings together faculty members interested in making small adjustments to their class curriculum that can MIX, or bring together, students from two different courses. Examples of innovative teaching partnerships include joint lectures, electronic discussions between the classes, joint field trips, and mixed-class group projects. The idea behind UBC MIX is to compliment the curriculum of both classes by exploring links between subjects, exposing the students to new ideas, and encouraging students to explore their own subject areas from a different point of view. By facilitating connections, developing resources, and supporting MIX activities, the UBC MIX project aims to offer UBC undergraduate students access to unique opportunities for exploring interdisciplinary connections in their education.

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

UBC MIX aims to create lightweight and flexible partnerships between courses that allow students from different disciplines to interact on an academic level. Trek 2010 "recognizes interdisciplinarity as an important principle in academic planning." UBC operates a wide variety of excellent joint degree and interdisciplinary degree programs. However, joint and interdisciplinary programs require a significant amount of commitment from both the students enrolled in these programs and the faculty members coordinating them. UBC MIX is an attempt to deliver interdisciplinary education on a much more accessible and less resource-intensive basis – i.e., between two courses already in existence. There are many opportunities to develop this kind of collaboration between courses at UBC. For example, the first UBC MIX pilot partnership brings together HIST 104 and Science One Biology and includes student interactions across the Faculties of Arts & Sciences around joint curricula exploring the ecology of BC's First Nations peoples. With the UBC MIX project, our main objective is to facilitate and support additional course partnerships to provide a broader range of opportunities for interdisciplinary student learning at UBC.

UBC MIX is a student driven educational initiative inspired by the 2008 TEDx Terry Talks WISH. "*My Terrytalk was about the importance of integration in university education and integrative solutions in society. With UBC MIX, I hope to create more opportunities for students to experience issues through different disciplines and work with students from different backgrounds.*" (Geoff Costeloe, 5th year Integrated Sciences and Political Science Double Major).

By facilitating unique class-by-class partnerships that highlight the significance of interdisciplinary connections, UBC MIX will support faculty efforts to integrate a broader range of perspectives into curriculum planning and teaching practices. Starting with the first UBC MIX connection between Carla Paterson and Celeste Leander, the project will archive examples of successful partnerships and will actively support the implementation of UBC MIX academic activities. In line with the Trek 2010 goal of "creating community-university groups to identify areas for joint activity in education needs", UBC MIX will foster a community of faculty members interested in creating UBC MIX connections and introducing interdisciplinary activities into their own classrooms.

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

UBC MIX aims to create partnerships between undergraduate classrooms and to support a community of interdisciplinary teaching at UBC. To meet these objectives, the UBC MIX project has three primary activities:

1) **Matchmaking**
UBC MIX actively seeks out faculty members who are interested in a UBC MIX partnership. This is done through presentations at faculty meetings, word of mouth, the UBC MIX website and the Terry* blog. The UBC MIX idea has been very well received on campus with articles encouraging participation appearing in past publications of UBC Reports, as well as the upcoming issue of the TAG Tapestry newsletter. In response to these calls for participation, UBC MIX student coordinators and/or faculty advisors meet with interested faculty members, explain the philosophy

of the project and provide examples from successful partnerships. Interested faculty can then provide specific ideas for MIX activities that would work within the class they teach. UBC MIX then goes back into its community of faculty members and tries to find a suitable partner.

2)   Course Development

Once an amenable partnership has been created, UBC MIX meets with both partners to provide advice and experience on how best to bring the classes together. UBC MIX project advisors can draw on the experience from other partnerships and share best practices. The modification of existing assignments, shared readings, joint tutorials and/or projects that overlap pedagogy and course content are the examples of techniques for bringing courses together. The UBC MIX project recognizes that each partnership will have different needs, and the faculty members should have full control over the format and content of the UBC MIX activities. The UBC MIX project will provide seed funding to support the development and implementation of MIX activities ($500 per UBC MIX pairing), personnel support to help document and archive MIX activities and evaluation reports, and access to student/faculty advisors during the development process.

3)   Best Practices Archive & Community Building via UBC MIX Website

One of the most important roles of the UBC MIX project is to collect feedback from all of the partnerships and create an archive of successful MIX activities. Capturing the student and faculty experiences gained from participating in a UBC MIX partnership will be crucial as we generate the UBC MIX online repository - where specific examples of how MIX pairings can bring interdisciplinary content into UBC courses will help identify future course pairings. All of this information will be stored on the UBC MIX website (www.terry.ubc.ca/mix) for public viewing. By highlighting resources, examples from successful partnerships, and student feedback on MIX activities, the website will serve as a resource for new and continuing partnerships as well as a community portal allowing students and faculty to interact within the UBC MIX community.

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.).

UBC MIX aims to increase student opportunities for interdisciplinary learning through the creation of specific partnerships between existing UBC courses. The UBC MIX model has already helped create one successful faculty partnership. Carla Paterson and Celeste Leander have brought together HIST 104 and Science One biology to combine the history of BC's First Nations peoples with the biology curriculum's ecology content. Over the course of the current semester (Winter 2009), the two courses have had five joint lectures. After each one of these joint lectures, students discussed their thoughts about the lecture with a partner from the other class. In addition, groups of 3-4 students from across the partnership will work together on a final project that involves finding, identifying and photographing themselves in front of the five most common coniferous tree across the UBC campus. These interdisciplinary groups will then work together to create a presentation that describes the role each tree played in First Nations culture on the West Coast. This UBC MIX partnership enhances teaching and learning by bringing students from two first year courses, with a combined enrollment of ~120 students, together to merge their respective expertise to accomplish common goals and deepens the storyline behind the curricula presented in both courses.

In an upcoming article in TAG's Tapestry, student Geoff Costeloe also points out that, "*There are lots of reasons that a UBC MIX partnership could benefit faculty members as well. Just as partnerships help break down barriers between students in different faculties, they can also help to bring new ideas into the lives of faculty members. Celeste and Carla were excited to learn more about each other's area of expertise.*"

In the short term, UBC MIX aims to build on this success of this initial pilot and support ten new UBC MIX partnerships within the first year of funding. This initiative has tremendous opportunity to impact a significant portion of the undergraduate community and is limited only by the number of UBC MIX partnerships. The UBC MIX model is very scalable, with no real limit on the number of faculty pairings that could exist. Each new UBC MIX partnership increases the number of students who benefit from the project.

UBC MIX project activities will also produce long term benefits that will exist beyond the lifetime of a single partnership. Classroom activities developed during the initial UBC MIX pairing have lasting impact through future offerings of the same courses and can inform future opportunities. UBC MIX partnerships will likely create new and innovative classroom activities. By collecting success stories, examples of specific activities, and best practices from each new UBC MIX partnership, the UBC MIX project will begin to build the online repository at www.terry.ubc.ca/MIX. Within the first several years, it is anticipated that this collection of UBC MIX experiences will grow. This large bank of interdisciplinary teaching resources will provide sustainable benefits. Once established, www.terry.ubc.ca/MIX resources will facilitate course partnerships and encourage participation by sharing specific teaching activities along with associated feedback on implementation. This project will also have lasting impact at UBC by fostering a community of instructors who will meet and interact between departments and faculties, with the purpose of enriching their teaching and research environment. The UBC MIX website will serve as the hub for faculty members interested in incorporating "interdisciplinarity" into their classroom experience using the UBC MIX model.

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).

The success of UBC MIX will depend on several factors. The first will be the number of faculty members that participate in the program and their class sizes. In the pilot year (09/10), UBC MIX had one partnership that involved approximately 120 students. Growth is anticipated in the next year (10/11) and by the first year of potential TLEF funding (11/12) the project should have grown significantly. Funding will primarily be used to support ten new partnerships. One direct calculation of UBC MIX's impact is the number of undergraduate students affected by partnerships currently operating. The success of UBC MIX will also be judged on how many new UBC MIX partnerships are created and how many existing partnerships are sustained.

It is important to make sure that UBC MIX partnerships are a positive experience for students. Traditional course evaluation tools will be an important tool for assessing the value of the project. In addition, feedback specific to individual MIX activities will be collected, analyzed, and documented using the UBC MIX website. Each partnership will report back to UBC MIX at the conclusion of the class through a report that combines feedback from the teaching assistants and faculty members alongside the evaluation of activities from students. This report is a crucial part of the UBC MIX attempts to create a best practices archive. The archive will help UBC MIX advise future potential partnerships who will, in turn add to the archive. Positive feedback from students and faculty, and the increasing number of resources available from the UBC MIX website will offer another measure of success for the project.

Chad Hyson 11/15/09 6:21 PM
Comment: I think that I would mention course evaluations as being an important tool for assessing the value of the project.

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

Students have been heavily involved in the creation of the UBC MIX Project.

I didn't know it at the time but Terry Talks 2008 was a turning point in my University career. After being honored by presenting the 'Wish' talk of 2008, I began work on my project, IF. IF (the Integrated Forum) began to be largely shaped by my perceived philosophy of Terry*: only through intelligent dialogue between students of all backgrounds can we tackle some of our worlds most difficult problems. I soon realized that the true value of IF (now called UBC MIX) was to bring the Terry* philosophy into as many classes as possible on campus.
Geoff Costeloe, 5th year Integrated Sciences and Political Science Double Major

As mentioned by Geoff above, UBC MIX was selected as the Terry Talks 2008 'Wish' project and through extensive consultation with students has been refocused into its current incarnation. When the project was selected as the inaugural talks inaugural 'wish' a group of staff, students, and faculty members came together to provide feedback, input, and support the project. After the selection, meetings were held over a 2 month period that included about 24 students representing most of the faculties. These students provided input on what they would like to see from a project and how interdisciplinary education could be better included in most undergraduate classrooms. Near the end

of 2008, UBC MIX was selected as a Clinton Global Initiative University project and Geoff Costeloe was invited to participate in their annual student meeting. At this conference Geoff developed UBC MIX in workshops with students from all around the world. It was several days of intense idea sharing and helped to reshape the UBC MIX project into its current form.

With the support of the Terry* team and funding from the Terry talks WISH, Geoff Costeloe began to search out two faculty members who would be interested in forming the initial pilot UBC MIX partnership. Celeste Leander and Carla Paterson leaped at the idea. After a few meetings the partnership took shape and had its first class in September of 2009. In parallel, Geoff created and partially developed the www.terry.ubc.ca/MIX website. One of the first drafts of this current TLEF proposal was also written by Geoff.

> *I received heaps of support from the Terry* team. It is very rare in to be given the reins of a $2000 project and be trusted to make it work. During this time I came to them for feedback and suggestions and the team was always there to help. It was up to me however to make sure that UBC MIX was moving forward and begin to provide returns. For me, this provided a real world learning experience that I couldn't get anywhere else.*
> **Geoff Costeloe, 5th year Integrated Sciences and Political Science Double Major**

As the project moves forward, student input will continue to be important. In November 2009, UBC MIX was selected as one of the 2010 Student Leadership Conference 'Highlighted Projects', further rooting it in student culture on campus. It is important to remember that one of the greatest assets of MIX is that it creates a very flexible system that allows faculty members to adapt to the needs of students. Student input is a crucial part of the best practices archiving. Feedback from students and faculty will play a permanent role in the evolution and growth of the UBC MIX project on campus.

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	In Kind Contributions	Total Cost
Website Hosting, Design, and Development	$1000	
UBC MIX Project Supervisor, 5% Dr. Joanne Fox	$4000	
UBC MIX Project Supervisor, 5% David Ng	$4000	
UBC MIX Project Supervisor, 5% Allen Sens	$4000	
UBC MIX Project Supervisor, 5% Chad Hyson	$4000	
Undergraduate Academic Assistants for UBC MIX project management, recruitment and activity development (full time summer positions plus part time commitment during the 2010 school year).		$8750 (summer) $2500 (winter)
Funding for UBC MIX partnerships (10 x $500.00) Seed funding for each UBC MIX partnership to subsidize initial course development and to support UBC MIX data collection for website.		$5000
Food budget for UBC MIX matchmaking presentations. 4 networking sessions planned for faculty recruitment (2 per semester) Sept – Apr time frame. $100 basic coffee + snack catering per session.		$400
		$16,650.00

_____   _____
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.*