Benjamin V. Cohen (1894-1983)

Born in Muncie, Indiana on September 23, 1894, Benjamin Victor Cohen graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1915. He then attended Harvard Law School where he attracted the attention of Felix Frankfurter. In 1933, Franklin Roosevelt summoned Cohen from private practice in New York to public service.

Cohen became a major legal architect of much of the New Deal legislation including the Securities Act and the plan for Lend-Lease and economic stability during World War II. A shy man, Cohen worked behind the scenes where his brilliance as a legal draftsman was widely recognized.

Following World War II, Cohen turned his talents to the problems of world peace and became one of the architects of the United Nations, serving on the U.S. delegation to the UN and on the United Nations Disarmament Commission. His abiding interest in world peace and his outstanding legal ability influenced American Presidents and world leaders until his death in 1983.
The mission of the Benjamin V. Cohen Memorial Endowment Fund is to provide a lasting memorial to Benjamin Cohen by fostering new approaches to the problems of peacemaking. This fund supports the Cohen Peace Fellowship Program.

Awards from the fund shall be used to memorialize Mr. Cohen’s commitment to the attainment of world peace by focusing on the study and discussion of world issues that affect world peace.

Projects may be carried out in one of two areas of social science research:

1) **Basic research.** This involves investigation driven by a researcher’s *curiosity* or interest in a fundamental question. The main motivation is to *expand knowledge* about issues that affect world peace. Studies normally employ statistical, analytical, or qualitative tools; findings from data typically are put to use by scholars, policy analysts, policy makers, the media, and the public.

2) **Applied research.** This approach is designed to solve *practical problems* associated with issues affecting world peace, rather than to acquire knowledge about those issues. The goal of the applied researcher is to *improve the human condition*, to translate research into good works for the public good. Normally, a practical application, useful tool, or educational program or strategy results from the project.

The successful research project should have potential for national impact and may include lectures, symposia, conferences, and the publishing of documents via websites. The Cohen Fellow will present his/her findings at the annual Ball State University Cohen Fellowship lecture.

Cohen Peace Fellowship Program proposals will be judged on the likelihood that the project, upon completion, will be implemented in ways that will have a substantive impact upon the goals of the Cohen Fund Program.

**Proposals must contain a clear and concise discussion of the impact of the project on peace.**

**AWARD TYPES**

There are two types of awards available:

**The Cohen Peace Faculty Fellowship** provides support for Ball State University faculty to conduct activities in the areas of basic or applied research on topics related to peace. Funds may be used for salary, supplies, expenses, and/or travel. Preference will be given to Ball State University tenure track faculty members.

**The Cohen Peace Graduate Fellowship** provides support for Ball State University graduate students to conduct activities in the areas of basic or applied research on topics related to peace. Funds may be used for assistantship stipend, supplies, expenses, and/or travel and may also include tuition remission during the academic time period of the fellowship.

**AWARDS**

Each year, if appropriate and based on the availability of funding, one proposal submitted by one or more Ball State University faculty members and one proposal submitted by a Ball State University graduate student will be selected to receive an award being cognizant of the greatest impact on the goals of the Program. Proposals may include a principal investigator (PI) and co-principal investigator(s) (Co-PI). Additionally, professionals not affiliated with Ball State University may serve as a Co-PI. In such cases, however, the PI must be a Ball State University faculty member or graduate student.

An award of up to $50,000 is available to support a one-year or a multiple year project. The review committee will determine the number, type, and level of project funding.

**FUND ADMINISTRATION**

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies administers the Cohen Peace Fellowship Program on behalf of the Benjamin V. Cohen Memorial Endowment Fund.

Questions about the Cohen Peace Fellowship Program are welcome, and should be addressed to Lawrence H. Gerstein, Ph.D. (Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies; peacecenter@bsu.edu; 765-285-1622).

Revised 12/28/2015
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
By October 1, 2016, applicants must consult with their department’s assigned SPA Proposal Manager. Failure to do this will render an application ineligible for further consideration. Note that the Cohen Peace Fellowship is an external competition. SPA will provide feedback on the proposal narrative and assistance developing the project budget. Applicants must follow the University Proposal Submission Policy (http://goo.gl/ITQy6V).

All final proposal materials are due to SPA by October 31, 2016 at 5:00 PM. SPA will route the proposal for institutional approvals via Cayuse424 and forward to the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Cohen Review Committee for evaluation by November 3. The Cohen Review Committee will not consider proposals that do not complete the institutional approval process by 5:00 PM on November 3.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE
Text
Regardless of discipline, all proposals must be written in clear, non-technical language readily understood by an educated layperson. Material must be organized in such a way that a clear objective of the project is readily discernable and is supported in the text. Double-space the text using no smaller than a size-11 font. Paginate the document starting with the applicant information section. Utilize 1” margins.

Format
The required elements for the proposal narrative, the order of the required sections, and the maximum number of pages allowed for each section are as follows:

APPLICATION COVER SHEET (1 page):
Download the interactive cover sheet to complete and print for physical signatures: http://goo.gl/7mvDex

TABLE OF CONTENTS (1 page): Generated by the applicant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (1 page)
Executive Summary: Describe the proposed project, how it fits with the goals and objectives of the Cohen Peace Fellowship Program, and how the project addresses the attainment of “peace.” This section must be suitable for dissemination to the public.

APPLICANT INFORMATION (2 pages maximum)
Statement of interest -- A paragraph to introduce the applicant and the topic of the proposal;
Experience as it relates to this proposal – Highlight qualifications of the applicant in reference to the currently proposed project. Include the following information:
• Academic background
• Research or other experience related to the proposal
• A discussion of the relationship between this proposal and other current internal or external proposals, funded or pending.
• Related publications, presentations, reported results within the last 5 years. (May be single-spaced.)

PROJECT DESIGN (7 pages maximum)
Background information -- The history of the idea, the current status of the research in this area, and a definition of terms needed to facilitate a lay reader’s understanding of the project. A definition of peace derived from the scholarly literature must be included;

Review of literature -- An overview of the current literature available on this topic highlighting the most relevant references;
Specific goals and objectives -- An expansion of the discussion of the scope of the project, focusing on the goals and/or objectives of the research and the specific connection of this project to the goals of the Cohen Peace Fellowship Program.
Significance of problem or impact of goal addressed -- A discussion of the significance/impact of the project on the following: the discipline, other disciplines, faculty, students, the university, and the world. While your particular project may not impact or have significance for all of these entities, the discussion must focus on the value or consequence of having carried out the project, in terms of basic or applied research as it relates to peace.

Extrinsic merits – A discussion of the merits of the project in terms of impact on scholarship in any field as well as the impact on teaching and learning, particularly as regards to Ball State students.

Means of dissemination, or expected outcome -- Plans for disseminating the expected results of the information generated by the project, in addition to the Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Studies Fellowship Lecture.

Scope of work & timetable – A work plan for the project. Include project timetable and analysis of feasibility of project completion during the award period.

Basic Research projects: Include specific details regarding research methods (including procedures and proposed data analysis techniques) to be used.

-or-

Applied Research projects: Include details on the target community, the number of participants involved, the strategy to be used and implemented, and an evaluation plan.

BUDGET NARRATIVE & DETAILS (2 pages)
Include itemization of costs in numeral form and a brief narrative description of those budgetary items. Funds may be used for assistantship salary, supplies, expenses, and/or travel and (for Graduate Students) may also include tuition remission during the academic time period of the fellowship.

Interested applicants must communicate with SPA at 765-285-1600 (www.bsu.edu/spa) during initial preparation of their proposal by no later than October 1, 2016. SPA will review the proposal narrative and provide assistance in developing the project budget as well as routing for approvals. As with all proposals submitted to external agencies, approvals must be obtained prior to the deadline of November 3.

Project periods are July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 following application submission. Multi-year projects also will be accepted, with a July 1, 2017 start date as well.

PROPOSAL ATTACHMENTS (pages as needed)
Please include the following required and optional materials as attachments to your proposal.

Required Materials
- Literature references (1 page maximum.) Use the format that is standard for publishing in your field.
- The applicant's definition of peace must be included in the background information section of the proposal, not in the Glossary of Terms mentioned below.
- Letter of support addressing the project in relation to priorities of the department.
  - Faculty: from your department chair
  - Students: from your faculty mentor
- Appendix of related materials (e.g., survey questions)
- Two page Curriculum Vitae for each investigator

Optional Materials
- Glossary of Terms (1 page maximum). It is recommended that, even though your proposal must be written for the educated layperson, it may be beneficial to the reviewer to refer to a glossary of terms used in the narrative or scope of work. It is recommended that the Glossary of Terms be placed at the beginning of the proposal.
- Additional letter(s) of support from faculty or other agencies (as needed). It is recommended that a letter of support be obtained if an outside agency is involved in any capacity.

REVIEW CRITERIA
The proposals will be reviewed by a committee comprised of members of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Advisory Board, members of the Cohen Advisory Committee, the Chair of the Research Committee, and other University representatives. The following section describes the review criteria to be used by the committee when evaluating Cohen Peace Fellowship Proposals. The specific language related to these criteria can be found at the end of these guidelines. Proposals must contain a clear and concise discussion of the impact of the project on peace and learning to be considered.
Applicant's Qualifications
Productivity (e.g. publications, service, performances, exhibits, presentations, etc.)
Experience of the applicant
Potential of the applicant
Relevance of background to the project
Funding History

Proposal Background
Literature review
Origin of the idea or project
History of the idea

Significance and Merits
Goal of proposal
Benefits to discipline & practice
Impact on the scholarship or creative work of other faculty
Impact on teaching and learning
Plans for dissemination, publication, or presentation
Impact on targeted community and beyond

Adherence to Format
Text is lucid and written in non-technical language
Proposal narrative adheres to the format described in this guide
Accuracy in grammar and spelling

Scope of Work
Time frame of project
Project plan (e.g., development of creative design, or data collection and statistical analysis, evaluation)
Feasibility of conducting the project
Feasibility of promoting peace
Use of resources and budget

POST AWARD GUIDELINES
Funding Arrangements
Upon the receipt of an award letter from the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, SPA will set up a restricted grant account and manage fund disbursement. A completed University Clearance sheet must be on file before an account can be established.

Reports & Recognition Lecture
During the course of the entire project, award recipients are required to submit a six-month progress report to the Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. This report must detail the project activities to date, any outcomes, a list of tasks to be completed, timeline for completing the project, and an analysis of the current project status in relation to the proposed planned timeline.

In addition, Cohen Peace Fellows will meet by telephone (if in-person is not practical) with the Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies quarterly during the project period to discuss the progress on the project and plans to complete the project.

At the conclusion of the project, recipients must complete and submit a report form obtained from the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Recipients also must, at the completion of their project, present their work in a scholarly paper and a lecture on campus as part of a recognition program that includes an explanation of how the work relates to peace. The scholarly paper is due December 15 of the semester following the project period. The lecture will take place during the Academic Year following the project period.
The scholarly paper must contain the following information:
- Brief overview of the project
- Review of project activities
- Present the outcome of the study including:
  - The results of the project
  - Goals achieved
  - How the results were disseminated
  - How the work completed relates to peace
  - Number of people/communities impacted by the project
  - Future plans to continue pursuing the plan of work beyond the fellowship funding period

The final report and paper must be submitted to the Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Finally, Cohen Peace Fellows are requested to provide annual updates to the Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies on additional impacts of the project as well as dissemination of the project’s outcomes.

Specific Criteria Used by Committee to Evaluate Cohen Fellow Proposal
1. Contains a clear and concise discussion of the impact of the project on peace.
2. Contains a clear and concise definition of peace.
3. Contains a clear and concise statement of how the proposal fits with the goals and objectives of the Cohen Peace Fellowship Program.
4. If proposal is basic research: Designed to expand knowledge about issues that affect world peace.
5. If proposal is applied research: Designed to solve practical problems associated with issues affecting world peace.
6. Potential for national impact (e.g., lectures, symposia, conferences, publication).
7. Applicant’s Background: Productivity (e.g., publications, service, performances, exhibits, presentations, etc.), experience of applicant, potential of applicant, relevance of background to project, and funding history.
8. Proposal Background: Literature review, origin of the idea or project, and history of the idea.
9. Significance and Merits: Goal of proposal, benefits to discipline and practice, impact on the scholarship or creative work of others, impact on teaching and learning, plans for dissemination, publication, or presentation, and impact on targeted community and beyond.
10. Adherence to Format: Text is lucid and written in non-technical language, proposal narrative adheres to the format described in the Cohen guide, and accuracy in grammar and spelling.
11. Scope of Work: Time frame of project, project plan (e.g., development of creative design, or research design, data collection strategy, and statistical analysis, evaluation), feasibility of conducting the project, feasibility of promoting peace, and use of resources and budget.