ANNOUNCEMENT
Office of Research and Economic Development

Program to assist faculty in reestablishing research competitiveness - 2013

This program is designed to help individual faculty members to reach and maintain competitiveness through several grant cycles since it is becoming more and more difficult given the present federal funding climate. A large number of researchers nationwide are competing for static - at best - or shrinking federal R&D budgets. A variety of factors may lead to an individual's proposals falling just under the pay line. The Office of Research and Economic Development is committed to supporting successful UW faculty researchers who continue to solicit external awards in support of their scholarship, but who are finding for one reason or another that their proposals are not funded. Recognizing that extrinsic factors leading to a grant proposal not being selected for funding are beyond our control, this program takes aim at intrinsic factors, where some action on UW’s part may affect a grant application’s competitiveness.

We are initiating an experimental program designed to assist those faculty members who can demonstrate that with some assistance there is a strong possibility that their proposals may again achieve competitiveness and thus receive funding. Specifically, we are soliciting proposals from faculty, who can demonstrate that they have had a strong history of receiving competitive funding from federal agencies over several cycles, but are currently unfunded.

The Research Office will not be prescriptive relative to what could be requested by individual faculty. Below are a few examples of what could help a faculty member achieve lost competitiveness.

- Funds to develop data to be used in a proposal where the reviewers pointed out that what is being proposed may be too risky.
- Funds to develop data to be used in a proposal where the reviewers pointed out that what is being proposed is stale research and only iterative in nature.
- Funds to buy out teaching thereby allowing time to develop seed data (this requires approval from the department head).
- Funds to develop an interdisciplinary approach to a specific problem.
- Funds to visit the laboratory of an expert to learn new techniques.
- Funds to purchase analysis time on equipment not owned by the University of Wyoming.
One-hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) will be made available for this experimental program and we hope to fund five or six proposals, so gauge the amount of funding requested accordingly.

How to apply

Faculty members currently holding competitive awards, or who have unspent start-up funds are ineligible to apply.

1. Using a letter format, faculty members wishing to apply must describe what, in their appraisal, may be keeping them from achieving federally competitive funding and how funding from the Research Office will fortify the individual or the proposed work in ways that will lead to competitiveness. These letters are limited to 3 pages with 1 inch margins, using 12 point font and single spaced.

2. Include one-page budget and budget justification that describes how funds will be spent.

3. Include a résumé, demonstrating a history of competitive funding from federal agencies.

4. Include reviews from the past two denied grant proposals demonstrating that the proposed work was solid (meaning receiving reasonable scores) in the perception of the reviewers but not funded.

5. Provide letters of support from the department head and College Dean stating if funded they too will work to support the intent and purpose of the proposal.

6. Submit entire document as one PDF in the following order: letter, budget, résumé, two reviews from denied proposals, and letters of support from department head and dean.

Review Process

Proposals submitted to this new program will be reviewed by a group of highly competitive faculty members who have considerable experience on agency review panels and their recommendations will be made to the Vice President of Research and Economic Development. Important in the review group’s consideration will be the strength of the letter provided by the Department Head and College Dean. Past proposal submissions will be documented with reports from the Greensheet system within the Office of Research and will be incorporated into the review process.

Successful applicants must commit to:

1. continued submittal of grant applications hopefully until funding is attained or for a period of at least two years

2. applicants are required to attend the Grant Writers Seminar on June 5, 2014 (unless applicant has previously attended the seminar within the last 3 years)

3. applicants must also accept the guidance of a professional grant writer supplied by the Office of Research and Economic Development

Proposals should be submitted to the Research Office by November 1, 2013, recommendations as to funding will be made around November 30, 2013. Applicant can submit proposal via email to Angela Faxon (afaxon@uwyo.edu), subject line should read: Reestablishing Research Competitiveness. For additional information please call 766-5353.