OFFICE OF RESEARCH FACULTY BRIDGE PROGRAM

Background and Purpose
The Office of Research (OoR) understands that maintaining productive programs during periods of temporary funding lapse is critical for future success. The Faculty Bridge Program (FBP) has been established by the OoR to provide short-term bridge or "gap" funding for established and productive faculty researchers who have had previous external funding, and who have remained active in research and in submitting grant applications, but who are now between funding cycles. This call will be limited to investigators who have a grant application pending with the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Future bridge funding opportunities will target faculty with interests in other agencies. The FBP application due dates will be November 2, 2018, February 1, 2019 and May 3, 2019.

Funding Priorities, Eligibility and Other Procedures
- The FBP is a peer reviewed competition open to all UC-paid, full-time faculty. Qualified investigators must have a grant application pending with the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (new or competitive renewal) or are planning to submit a grant within the next available cycle.
- All faculty except those with primary appointments with the College of Medicine are eligible to apply.
- Priority will be given to productive researchers with a history of external funding who have lost a major source of funding.
- Applicants must have expended all unrestricted start-up funds prior to awarding of this funding.
- Applications will be reviewed by fellow UC faculty members. Recommendations for funding based on reviews will be provided to the Vice President for Research who will make the final determination. Reviews will be made available to all applicants.
- Proposals may request up to $10,000 from the Office of Research. Funding requests can include support for personnel (students, technicians, postdocs), materials and supplies, and core usage. The number of proposals funded will be a function of funds available, and the numbers of meritorious, qualified applications received.
- Because this is intended as bridge funding, the FBP is targeted to those investigators who have competitive proposals and are on the brink of funding. Project periods of longer than one year will not be considered.
- Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries, travel, or equipment and must be spent within one year. Unspent funds, or funds that have not yet been used when external funding is received, will be reclaimed by the OoR for redistribution. Faculty are expected to report all external funding received during the year of support.

- Applicants must be nominated by their department chairperson or unit head. While not a requirement, departmental and/or college contributions toward gap funding is encouraged.
- There is no limit on the number of applications/nominations per department or on the number of awards per department.

Applications must be submitted via email to Dr. Phil Taylor and are due by 5:00 pm on the specified due dates. Submit a single file containing the requested information outlined below including the budget prepared using the provided Excel template. Email: Taylorp4@ucmail.uc.edu.

Application Materials
The following documentation must be submitted with the application:
- A brief description of what the funding will be used to support, why it is essential, and any additional efforts already underway to secure external funding to sustain the program beyond the bridging period.
- The research program's past record of external funding. Include the source of funding, the award amount, and the time period of the award.
- If appropriate, a copy of pending grant application and full copies of reviewer(s) critique(s).
- If appropriate, one page response to those reviews indicating how the proposal was (or will be) modified to respond to reviewer comments.
- Budget using the template provided here: Faculty Bridge Program Budget Template clearly indicating support from various units, i.e., department, college, and OoR, with full budget justification for each funding request.
- Faculty statement of what would be the effect on their research program if no bridge funding were available.
- Letter or email of support from department chair or unit head addressing the following: 1) confirming the matching funds being provided by the unit, 2) how the research fits with the unit's research priorities, and 3) department chair or unit head assessment of the investigator's ability to attain continuation funding.
- Endorsement from the Dean indicating s/he is aware of the request, concurs with the unit head's assessment and confirms any matching funds from the college (can be a separate email or co-signature on unit head's letter).

Expectations
- Awardees will be expected to provide a brief update 6 months after award; after 1 year; and after 2 years to allow the OoR to assess return on investment. These data include funding awards, publications, and other scholarly activities. Such data are essential for the continued funding of this program. It is also expected that recipients of funding from this program will participate in other activities such as proposal reviews for this program in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Phil Taylor at taylorp4@ucmail.uc.edu; 556-5308.

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