The University of Cincinnati Office of Research
Internal Funding Program Announcement

## University Research Council (URC)
## Faculty Research Pivot Awards

The Office of Research is pleased to announce the 2021 RFP for the *inaugural* URC Faculty Research Pivot Awards Program. Building upon the rich legacy of the University Research Council (URC), UC's oldest and most prestigious internal funding program, the URC Faculty Research Pivot Awards are targeted to mid-career and beyond faculty who are proposing transformative *new* ideas and directions for their research, scholarship and creative activities. This program is for individual faculty and may be discipline-focused or interdisciplinary in nature. All areas of research, scholarship and creative activities across UC are eligible.

This program will follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a 3-page *concept* paper. Up to 10 finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and agree to a 10-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities.

**Awards**: All awards will be for $15,000 and for a period of 18 months. Awards are expected to support the proposed activities and can include course relief, as necessary. Budgets will only be required from awardees and will be created in collaboration with the Office of Research. Up to five awards will be made in the first year of this program.

**Unit Head Support**: All applicants must provide a letter of support from their unit head documenting the proposed activities are a departure from the current, the availability of resources to conduct the proposed activities, and any necessary unit-level support for the faculty member should they be selected for an award.

### KEY DATES
RFP released March 18, 2021
Concept/White Paper Application Deadline: April 15, 2021 5:00 pm EST
Finalists Notified: April 22, 2021 (anticipated)
Final Proposal Deadline: May 13, 2021, 5:00 pm EST (for finalists only)
Finalist Presentations: Week of May 24th 2021 (anticipated)
Awardees Announced: Week of June 21st, 2021 (anticipated)
Award Period: August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2023

**Program Information**

The University Research Council (URC) funding program is UC's oldest and most prestigious internal funding mechanism. Since 1971, the URC has worked in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research to advance high-potential faculty who demonstrate excellence in research, scholarship and creative work.

Recognizing there has been a significant gap in internal programs that are dedicated to helping mid-career and beyond faculty establish a new and unique line of research, scholarship or creative activities, the URC Faculty Research Pivot Program has been established as part of UC's **Research2030** strategic plan for research. Our established faculty have accumulated much experience and knowledge, and this award is geared towards helping them identify solutions to the complex questions, problems and challenges facing society that would be a departure from what they have done previously in their career.

The goals of the URC Faculty Research Pivot program are to 1) Support our mid-career and beyond researchers, scholars and creatives; 2) Drive excellence in all areas of research, scholarship and creative endeavors; and 3) Advance high-potential, high-impact activities that are inclusive, impactful, and innovative to the next level.

The expected outcomes for this program are to: 1) Support our mid-career and beyond investigators towards new areas of success and prominence; 2) Advance high-potential research and creative activities in emergent areas; and 3) Increase faculty competitiveness and capacity for extramural awards and funding.

Awardees will be selected based on the quality, novelty, and impact of their newly proposed research, scholarship and creative activities, along with a clear potential to make further, sustainable contributions to knowledge creation and improved societal outcomes. URC Faculty Research Pivot Awards are essentially unrestricted funds that can be used to achieve the desired outcomes and goals of the proposed activity.

**Eligibility**
- *This is a mid-career and beyond program*; therefore, UC faculty members must be tenure-track faculty at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor.
- Eligible applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment, with UC being the primary appointment.
- Only one application per eligible faculty member is allowed. There are no limits to the numbers of applicants per unit or college. Collaborators may be part of the research/creative activities but the program is geared for individuals, not teams.
- As this is the inaugural offering of this program, otherwise eligible faculty who received past URC or Office of Research funding may apply. Such previously funded applicants must have met all requirements of former awards within budget and timeframe AND the proposed area of research, scholarship or creative activities may not duplicate that previously supported by a former award. Note: such previous awardees will be required to provide data/evidence that the previously funded project was successful and impactful if invited to the finalist stage for this program.
- Otherwise eligible faculty with external funding may apply but the proposed activities must not duplicate those already funded, and applicants should clearly delineate the relationship between on-going, funded work and that being proposed here.

**Concept/White Paper Application Materials**

Applications will be submitted online via Wisehive, our internal program software. When the application is available, the link will be posted on https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, M-number, college, department/unit, and proposal title within the Wisehive application portal prior to uploading the required pdf files.

All documents must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout. All materials below **must** be submitted in the order listed as separate PDF files.

1. Concept/White Paper Contents (3 page maximum).
   The concept/white paper should contain the following information in the order listed below. *Word limitations for each section are merely provided as suggestions.* Figures may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. No hyperlinks or redirects to external information may be included.
   - Project Title and Project Leader
   - Problem Statement and Significance (150 words)
   - Background including Prior Approaches/Relevant Literature (150 words)
   - Project Description/Proposed Approach (250 words)
   - Anticipated Results/Outcomes (200 words)
   - Broader Impacts (200 words)
   - Project Sustainability/Detailed Plans to Obtain Follow-on Funding (200 words)
   - Justification for project as a new line of inquiry, research or creative activity for the applicant (200 words)
2. Bibliography/References Cited. Full reference details for all citations in concept/white paper (1 page maximum)
3. Biographical Sketch/CV (Only for applicant; 3 page maximum)
4. Letter of Support from Unit Head (2 page maximum)

**Concept/White Paper Review Criteria**:
- Project Merit
  - Clarity, significance and relevance of problem being addressed
  - Accurate presentation of the state of the field/current approaches, methods or techniques being used
  - Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach
  - Project outcomes including contribution to field of study or potential to establish new multi/interdisciplinary area along with assessment measures
  - Broader impacts (e.g., efforts to broaden participation; potential to place UC/college/unit as leader in field; alignment with UC, local or state priorities)
  - Appropriateness of plan to obtain additional/follow-on external support for project
- Suitability of the proposer to undertake and complete the proposed project and clear delineation as to why and how this would be a new area of investigation.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

The Vice President for Research will be hosting a webinar to discuss the opportunity, RFP details (e.g., application materials, white paper components and review criteria) and answering applicant questions on **March 24th at 12:00 pm (noon)**. Interested applicants to this program are encouraged, but not required, to attend this webinar. Registration details for this webinar can be found at https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

**Finalist Selection & Review Process**: Each URC Faculty Research Pivot Award concept/white paper will be reviewed by Office of Research staff. Due to the nature of this program, exhaustive reviews for the initial white papers will not be made available to the applicant. Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

**QUESTIONS?** Email research@uc.edu