RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM
2007-09
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

A CALL FOR CONCEPT PAPERS
INTRODUCTION

The Research Incentive Program (formally Research Challenge) was created in 1985 by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) to enhance the capability of Ohio universities to attract external (federal, corporate, and foundation) funding for research. The OBR directs Ohio universities to invest Research Incentive funds in such a manner as to:

- To stimulate and improve the quality of research and scholarship at Ohio’s Universities;
- To increase the amount of federal and other research funding received by Ohio’s universities, and;
- To encourage research efforts that address critical state needs such as economic development.

With the implementation of Ohio’s Third Frontier Project, additional specificity is now provided for university’s efforts to use Research Incentive Program funding in the prior areas. As stated by OBR, “Universities are strongly encouraged to increase their efforts to work in partnership with industry to the greatest degree possible in the areas of research that lend themselves to possible future commercialization activities”. Therefore, Miami University’s Research Incentive will align with the Ohio Third Frontier by encouraging collaborations and center formation in the areas of interest. It is expected that successful Research Incentive Awardes would be positioning themselves for participation in collaborative BRCP, Ohio Third Frontier Action Fund, or Wright Centers of Innovation state funding. This “Call for Concept Papers” describes procedures whereby groups of faculty can suggest promising research projects and enter into a dialogue with the University’s Research Incentive Advisory Committee concerning the project’s merit and potential.

Miami University expects to invest significant funds from its 2007-2008 Research Incentive allocation in support of ideas and projects suggested in response to this announcement.

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT

As prescribed by the OBR, “Funds should be used with the intent of building strengths, fostering additional externally funded research, and promoting Ohio's economic revitalization.”

Research Incentive funds may be used to encourage research or scholarly activity in existing or new research directions in any discipline or research area present in the University. The primary OBR (and Miami) requirement is that Research Incentive funds are used in areas that are aligned with Ohio’s Third Frontier Project and are to be used with the clear intent to foster additional externally funded research.
TYPES OF PROJECTS

For the 2007-08 Research Incentive competition, the Miami University Research Incentive Advisory Committee will give priority to Collaborative projects or Research Center Development projects. (maximum award of $50,000)

This category of support is intended to provide seed funding either for interdisciplinary research projects, collaborative work leading to new research centers at Miami, or work strengthening established research centers in ways that will significantly improve their capacity to generate external support.

GUIDELINES FOR CONCEPT PAPERS

COLLABORATIONS

The required format for concept papers for collaborations is as follows:

- cover page (available from OARS) with appropriate endorsements
- clearly identify what area of the Third Frontier this collaboration is addressing
- identify potential collaborations in terms of center formation or external collaborations with other institutions and industry
- identify which state of Ohio funding source (Wright Centers, BRCP, or Third Frontier Action Fund) is targeted
- a maximum five-page project description
- one-page budget request and budget justification
- one-page statement of the plan for obtaining traditional external funding
- one to two-page vitae for each research program faculty member including funding record
- listing of proposals submitted since 2000 and their status (as many pages as needed)

The project description that comprises the body of the concept paper should concisely address the following questions:

- What are your objectives and vision?
- Why is the project significant?
- How are you going to conduct the project?
- What resources are needed for conducting the program for which you are requesting Research Incentive funding (give cost details in budget page)?
- What is the plan for attracting external support, and which agencies, foundations or corporations would be likely sponsors?

The concept paper must be endorsed by the appropriate department chair(s) and divisional dean(s).

Previous recipients of Research Incentive funds are eligible to submit concept papers, but are required to include an additional statement demonstrating the effectiveness of the earlier funding in attracting external funds from the federal government, foundation, or industry.
CENTERS

The required format for concept papers for Centers is as follows:

- cover page (available from OARS) with appropriate endorsements
- clearly identify what area of the Third Frontier this Center is addressing
- identify potential external collaborations with other institutions and industry (letters from these collaborators will improve the prospects for funding)
- identify which state of Ohio or federal funding sources (e.g. Wright Centers, BRTT, or Third Frontier Action Fund, ODE) are targeted
- an approximate five-page project description
- a maximum two-page description on how the Center will operate
- one-page budget request and budget justification
- one-page statement of the plan for obtaining traditional external funding
- one to two-page vitae for each research program faculty member including funding record
- listing of proposals submitted since 2001 and their status (as many pages as needed)

In addition to the proposal, the document for Approval of Centers at Miami University must be attached. This will require that the Provost or Dean has agreed to be the oversight authority for the Center. Actual approval of the Center does not have to exist at the time of the proposal submission, but designated funds will not be released until the Center is approved by the Provost.

The project description that comprises the body of the concept paper should concisely address the following questions:

- What are your objectives and vision?
- Why is the project significant?
- How are you going to conduct the project?
- What resources are needed for conducting the program for which you are requesting Research Incentive funding (give cost details in budget page)?
- What is the plan for attracting external support, and which agencies, foundations or corporations would be likely sponsors?

The concept paper must be endorsed by the appropriate department chairs and divisional deans.

Previous recipients of Research Incentive funds are eligible to submit concept papers, but are required to include an additional statement demonstrating the effectiveness of the earlier funding in attracting external funds from the federal government, foundation, or industry.

ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES IN PROJECTS

Specific allowable costs are direct costs normally incurred during the conduct of sponsored research, including salaries, consultant fees, equipment, domestic travel necessary for the conduct of the research, publications, supplies, and other direct costs. The following specific points also are noteworthy.
• Miami expenditures for equipment are limited to 25% of the total Research Incentive Program funds awarded to the institution in any one biennium. Equipment is defined as having a $1,200 or more unit price with a useful life of at least five years. Requests for equipment totaling over 25% of a project budget should be cleared with the Office for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship prior to submission.

• Faculty, student, and technician salaries (and associated fringe benefits) may be charged to Research Incentive Program funds. Research Incentive Program funds may not be used to pay salaries for sabbaticals or professional leaves of absences. Faculty summer salary requests are limited to $6,200 (plus 34.7% fringe benefits) for summer 2008. If release time for the academic year is requested, the budget must identify the amounts of funding necessary to hire faculty replacements for assigned instructional responsibilities. If a graduate research assistant is requested, it will be necessary to request the stipend and tuition/fees.

• Research Incentive Program funds may not be used for training students in research methods and techniques as part of course work, workshops, or conferences; sponsoring conferences, symposia or workshops; presentations at conferences; or international travel.

• Research Incentive funding may be combined with other funding available through sponsored programs or from funds available in departments and academic divisions.

• Funds from this Research Incentive program must be expended prior to August 31, 2009.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Research Incentive Advisory Committee will be appointed by the University to review proposed projects and to make recommendations regarding the most meritorious projects to be funded. Faculty should anticipate a considerable breadth in Advisory Committee (reviewer) backgrounds. Faculty also are encouraged to discuss ideas with the Office for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship prior to submittal of their proposal.

Submissions will be reviewed and ranked by the Advisory Committee utilizing the following criteria:

- alignment with the Third Frontier Project
- extent to which the project will enhance the ability to attract external research funds
- intrinsic merit and timeliness of the proposed work and the probability that it will make a significant contribution to the field of knowledge
- importance of the project in relation to departmental, college, or university thrusts in particular the strength and potential of the collaboration or Center.
- previous record of the principal investigator(s) in seeking external funds for research quality of the personnel and adequacy of the resources necessary for the project
- clarity of the written document (it must be understandable to a non-specialist)

Faculty who suggest projects for funding through Research Incentive may be asked to meet personally with the Research Incentive advisory committee to discuss their ideas and proposed project.
TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 24, 2008</td>
<td>10 copies of each concept paper are due by noon in the Office for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2008</td>
<td>Review by the Research Incentive Advisory Committee; possible meetings and/or discussions with the Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2008</td>
<td>Research Incentive Advisory Committee forwards its recommendations to the Provost</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2008*</td>
<td>Distribution of funds to specific research projects at Miami University</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2008-August 31, 2009</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
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* For Center Proposals, the Center must be approved before funds will be distributed.
SAMPLE COVER PAGE

RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

PROJECT TITLE

submitted by

FACULTY INVESTIGATOR(S)
TITLE
DEPARTMENT

AMOUNT REQUESTED

PROJECT INITIATION DATE

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE

PROGRAM CATEGORY (identify one)
I. Collaborative Project or Research Center Development

ENDORSEMENTS:

Chair, Department

Dean, Academic Division