



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES – SEED AND BRIDGE FUNDING TO SUPPORT
FACULTY RESEARCH

UPDATED
10/21/2011

The Dean's Office is continuing the initiative to provide seed and bridge funding to facilitate faculty research. All tenure-line faculty members are eligible. There are no specific deadlines to request seed or bridge funds. Faculty should first discuss their needs with their chair to develop a plan to present to Angel Kaifer, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education. The Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education will be responsible for reviewing and determining funding for the plan.

- 1) **Seed Funding** – Seed funding is designed to invigorate the scholarly productivity of faculty. In many cases, a small investment may provide a big step toward completion of ongoing projects, development of new projects or enhancement of competitiveness for extramural support. Faculty may need funds for facility/equipment upgrades to pursue a new avenue of research, with the expectation of providing preliminary data for an extramural proposal. Priority will be given to individuals whose scholarship may have been delayed due to lack of funding for these activities and/or to individuals considering a change of focus into a new direction or area. Seed funding awards will be made in accord with a proposed budget and typically will not exceed \$5,000. Departments with discretionary funds will be expected to contribute to or, when necessary, supplement these awards. Typically, the award period is 12-24 months.
- 2) **Bridge Funding** – Bridge funding is intended to provide temporary support when grant funding has ceased and there is a reasonable expectation of future funding. Particularly in the natural and some social sciences, even a temporary loss of funding can be catastrophic when it necessitates the termination or reassignment of graduate research assistants, post-docs, and research staff (e.g. lab technician). The goal of the College is to encourage and support continuous research productivity and to minimize where possible the negative consequences of external funding delays or priority shifts. The highest priority is to maintain funding for graduate students so that they may complete their degrees. This is most often accomplished by temporarily moving them from RA positions to TA slots. The next priority is to maintain lab or project capability, often involving support for a lab or project manager. Finally, labs require consumables. When such a loss of funding occurs (or is imminent), and the potential for new or renewed funding for the project is high, faculty may submit a proposal for bridge funding via the chair to the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education. In addition, the faculty member should submit copies of all evaluations/rankings of the project that has been reviewed by the funding agency. Projects with a high probability of approval by the funding agency will be favorably reviewed. It is unlikely that the College would have many faculty members in this situation in a given year. Reasonable limits for total bridge funding will be made according to the proposed budget, potential for future funding, priority of need, and availability of funds.

Faculty salary will not be supported by bridge funding. Faculty members are expected to apply for other available grants from the University such as the Provost Research Award and to apply for outside funding within one year.