

Tulane Research Enhancement Fund

SUPPORT FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ENDEAVOR

PHASE II

In April 2006, Tulane University announced the establishment of a **Research Enhancement Fund of \$20 Million** to be distributed in support of faculty initiatives in research, scholarship and creative endeavor university-wide. Objectives of the Research Enhancement Fund include the following:

- ◆ To expand the base of nationally competitive research activity and thereby increase extramural support of research at Tulane University.
- ◆ To elevate the national visibility and reputation of Tulane University faculty for excellence in scholarly accomplishment.
- ◆ To afford the opportunity for faculty to develop new avenues of creative endeavor with potential for positive reputational impact.
- ◆ To elevate the intellectual environment at Tulane University through the stimulation of scholarly endeavor.
- ◆ To strengthen the educational offerings through increased opportunity for student participation in research, scholarship and creative activity.
- ◆ To build collaboration and synergy among the schools and campuses of Tulane University.

To achieve these objectives, the Research Enhancement Fund is to be distributed in two phases. The Phase I distribution was completed in June 2006. The following represent guidelines and application instructions for the Phase II distribution.

Research Enhancement Fund Phase II

\$10 Million of the Research Enhancement Fund will be distributed competitively over a two-year period, beginning in FY2007, in support of faculty initiatives in research, scholarship and creative endeavor university-wide. \$5 Million will be distributed in each of FY2007 and FY2008 with solicitations for proposals issued twice each year. Research Enhancement Fund awards are not transferable. If the award recipient resigns from Tulane University during the course of the project, funds remaining in the award will be forfeited.

Proposals will be accepted for review in two programs:

Program 1: Projects with budgets up to \$25,000.

The goal of Program 1 is to support new research, scholarly and creative endeavors which require a budget up to \$25,000. Expenditure categories for such projects include:

- Travel for the acquisition of research data, information or concepts.
- Travel to present research findings at scholarly conferences.
- Costs associated with the publication of scholarly work.
- Acquisition of minor equipment required for the project.
- Acquisition of books, journals or other scholarly materials required for the project.
- Salary support for technical staff, graduate students, undergraduate students or other trainees working on the project. No faculty salary may be paid from Program 1 funds.

Program 2: Projects with budgets up to \$125,000.

The primary goal of Program 2 is to maintain and expand the research activities of nationally competitive, extramurally funded investigators. Program 2 seeks to support research projects that demonstrate promise in attracting competitive support and that require a budget up to \$125,000. Meritorious projects that may not meet the primary goal of Program 2, but address the overall objectives of the Research Enhancement Fund, will be considered as a second priority for funding. Expenditure categories for projects in Program 2 include:

- Supplies and materials required for the project.
- Equipment required for the project.
- Salary support for technical staff, graduate students, undergraduate students or other trainees working on the project. No faculty salary may be paid from Program 2 funds.
- Travel related to the project.
- Publication costs related to the project.
- Acquisition of books, journals or other scholarly materials required for the project.

Instructions for Submission:

Proposals and all associated materials are to be submitted **electronically**. **NO HARD COPIES ARE REQUIRED.**

For the final round of competition in March 2008, two categories of proposals are solicited:

1. As in previous cycles, proposals will be accepted from individual faculty in the Dean's Office of the school of the principal investigator according to instructions and guidelines provided by the school. Faculty at Tulane National Primate Research Center should submit proposals electronically to the Center Director. Proposals will be accepted in Program 1 (budgets up to \$25,000) and Program 2 (budgets up to \$125,000).

Initial review of these proposals will be conducted by the Dean's Office in each school (or TNPRC). Once the review is completed, the outcome and the proposals will be forwarded electronically to the ASVPR by March 15, 2008.

****PLEASE NOTE that submission deadlines in advance of March 15, 2008 will be established by the Dean's office of each school to permit preliminary review and ranking of the proposals. The applicant should contact the Dean's office about submission requirements and deadlines internal to the school.**

2. In addition, **priority in the final round of competition will be given to interdisciplinary, collaborative proposals that meet at least two of the following criteria:**

*Interdisciplinary, collaborative projects that engage faculty from multiple schools or units.

*Projects that integrate multiple approaches from diverse disciplines to address a complex problem of significance.

*Proposals to enhance core facilities, equipment or infrastructure that can support multiple faculty and objectives.

Proposals designed to meet these criteria may request budgets up to \$250,000 with appropriate justification and should discuss the potential for sustained competitive research support. These proposals should be **submitted electronically to the ASVPR Office at rsliwins@tulane.edu by March 15, 2008.**

Guidelines for preparation of proposals:

A proposal up to 3 pages in length (for Program 1) or 8 pages in length (for Program 2) should be submitted by the indicated deadline to include the following information:

1. Cover Page (not included in the page limit)
The proposal must include a cover page clearly indicating the following information:

Title of Proposal
Applicant's Name
Department and School
Campus Mailing Address
Telephone Number
Email Address
Total Amount of Budget Request
Dates of Proposed Project Period (start date and end date)

2. Abstract: A brief summary of the project and its relevance to the goals of the Research Enhancement Fund
3. Project Description
4. Qualifications of the Principal Investigator and other key team members
5. Description of the relevance of the project to the goals of the Research Enhancement Fund.
6. Budget Request and Justification
7. Anticipated Timeline for completion

A brief Curriculum Vitae (up to 4 pages in length) should be submitted for the Principal Investigator and other key team members. An NIH-style Biographical Sketch is acceptable but not required.

For proposals that represent collaborative efforts between multiple faculty, the length of the proposal may be extended by two pages per additional faculty participating.

Mechanism for review:

Initial review of proposals submitted through the schools will be conducted by the Dean's office of each school (or TNPRC Director). All proposals and Dean's recommendations will then be reviewed by a committee of university leadership chaired by the Associate Senior Vice President for Research and including the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the Senior Vice President/Dean of Medicine, the Senior Vice President for Operations and the Senior Vice President for External Affairs.

For more information:

Questions concerning the Research Enhancement Fund should be directed to Roblynn Sliwinski, Executive Assistant to the Associate Senior Vice President for Research, at rsliwins@tulane.edu.