

**Illinois State University
Academic Affairs
FY19 Planning Document**

Office of the Associate Vice President for Research
Research and Sponsored Programs
Research Ethics and Compliance

The draft strategic plan *Educate. Connect. Elevate.* emphasizes the critical roles that research, scholarship, and creative activities have in the mission and vision of Illinois State University. The goals and objectives outlined in this planning document align with all seven core values:

- Learning and Scholarship, by definition;
- Individualized attention, through the often 1:1 interactions between faculty and students that take place in scholarly and creative activities;
- Diversity and Inclusion, through research in cultural understanding and social justice, and through the inclusion of all students in advanced scholarly and creative activities;
- Respect, through collaboration and the exchange of ideas that are essential aspects of scholarly and creative activities;
- Civic Engagement, through the active learning experiences in which many students and faculty engage during their research and creative activities;
- Collaboration, through researchers' interactions with partners internal and external to the University;
- Integrity, through the ethical standards required to conduct quality research and creative activities.

Furthermore, these goals and objectives directly promote or support all four strategic directions of the University and many of the objectives and actions supporting those strategic directions.

I. Major Goals for FY19

Goal 1. Continue implementing the current Research Strategic Plan, and consider refinements to make it more closely align with *Educate. Connect. Elevate.*

- Continue the creation and development of policies, programs, processes, and administrative structures that support faculty, student, and staff in their research and creative efforts, and that align with the Research Strategic Plan
- Work with the University Research Council, the College Research Coordinators, faculty, and student researchers to identify and prioritize unmet needs with regards to research and creative activities.
- Assess the progress made under the current Research Strategic Plan and begin the process of updating the strategic plan to align with *Educate. Connect. Elevate.*

Goal 2. Reexamine the role of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies in promoting faculty and student research and creative activities, and explore new ways of doing business

- Establish an identity for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies that promotes its goal of providing multifaceted support to faculty, students, and staff involved in research and creative activities
- Promote the critical role that the engagement of students in research and creative activities has on student retention and inclusion
- Create guidelines for research collaborations to become research centers; develop seed funding and a pathway to sustainability for nascent centers
- Explore alternate funding models and seek new sources of funding for University Research Grants
- Build educational outreach in all areas: grants, compliance, student issues, and entrepreneurship
- Develop policies and procedures that ensure that all units use recovered indirect cost funds to promote research, scholarship, and creative activities
- Prepare for support and service models for the scholarly activities of units currently in development on campus such as Cybersecurity and Engineering.

Goal 3. Strengthen support for faculty research and creative activities

- Develop sustainable model that provides startup funds to new faculty, including both large startup packages and smaller seed funds that are critical to all faculty as they launch their academic careers
- Increase the funding for University Research Grants
- Explore new programs for encouraging grant submission and resubmission of promising proposals
- Create an “RSP Fellows” educational and certification program for pre-tenure faculty that provides them with the skills required for grant submission and management
- Increase the support of faculty innovation and entrepreneurship, and begin studying the feasibility of an incubator, including the possibility of a shared makers as an institutional cross-disciplinary initiative.
- Create a series of workshops, both scheduled and on demand, that inform faculty about the varied aspects of grants, research, and research compliance
- Provide funding for students engaged in research with faculty
- Develop a program to provide matching funds for faculty book subventions

Goal 4. Champion student research and creative activities

- Create an Office of Student Research and Innovation that promotes student research opportunities and provides professional development for students and faculty engaged in research and creative activities
- Reestablish an undergraduate research fellowship program that provides stipends to students engaged in research and creative activities
- Explore the creation of an incubator in which student entrepreneurs have access to the resources and education necessary to develop ideas, technologies, devices, etc. into small businesses

II. Permanent Funding Requests

Priority 1. Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) and Undergraduate Creative Expression Fellowship (UCEF). Student research and creative expression is a critical component

of undergraduate students' experiences in many programs at Illinois State University. Support for some students can be obtained through grants and contracts, however the number of students wishing to engage in these experiences greatly outnumbers the positions available through external funding. We propose to support the student experience directly through undergraduate research and creative expression fellowships, a student support mechanism that is typically funded by the central administrations of our peer institutions. In the past, RSP has attempted to establish these programs using its own budget, but student demand has greatly exceeded available funds. In summer 2014, for example, less than 20% of the applications could be funded, meaning that more than 80% of the students were left without support. This high rejection rate caused hard feelings toward a program that should be viewed as an important source of support. (An informal survey taken by the AVP of Research at a recent Council on Undergraduate Research meeting revealed that typical funding rates at other colleges and universities are in the 60-100% range.) To reach a success rate of 60%, we require approximately 25 \$4500 summer awards (\$4,000 stipend and \$500 in travel/supplies) and 25 \$1,250 semester awards (\$1,000 stipend and \$250 in travel/supplies, each semester). **Total Request: \$175,000/yr (student wages, commodities, travel).**

Priority 2. Increase of University Research Grant (URG) funding. In FY96, the University provided just over \$525,000 for the URG program. If the funding of the URG program had kept pace with inflation, more than \$825,000 would be needed to have the same buying power. Instead, the URG program is currently funded with \$325,753, despite the fact that the faculty is much more research active than in 1996. This \$500,000 shortfall in buying power means that there is substantially less research activity funded by the University than in 1996. As a result, the preliminary data and initial results that are needed for competitive grant submissions is not being collected, and furthermore fewer students are engaged in these activities. As a result, the total number of research grant submissions and the University's scholarly productivity is likely to be suppressed. University-wide, the average URG award is approx. \$4,300 (the maximum award varies by college but is typically \$5,000 or \$6,000 for a single investigator). By comparison, peer institutions have much more generous support programs; SIUE provides seed grants with maximum awards of \$16,000; Ball State provides junior faculty awards with a maximum of \$15,000; NIU provides awards with a maximum of \$15,000 (grant-related) or \$10,000 (non-grant related); Missouri State provides maximum awards of \$7,500. To restore URG funding to historical levels, we request a multiyear increase in the URG allocation to \$1,000,000. This increase would be accompanied by a reexamination of the URG program, including the formula for distribution to the colleges and the maximum funding levels. *Importantly, the creation of engineering programs will increase the demand for internal research dollars, and it is therefore critical that the URG program is ready for this increased research activity.* Renewed URG support should result in increased external grant activity and research productivity, promising a strong return on investment. In the future, it will be necessary to adjust the University's commitment periodically to ensure that this erosion of research support does not recur. **Total Request: \$675,000, phased in over 3 years (\$225,000 per year) if necessary.**

Priority 3. Office for Student Research and Innovation. Undergraduate research is widely recognized as a high impact educational practice (HIEP). Many universities and colleges have established undergraduate research offices that coordinate services, advertise opportunities, and provide funding for students participating in research and creative activities. These offices also frequently work to expand the range of research opportunities to include students in fields where undergraduate research is less common (typically the humanities and social sciences). In addition, these offices typically coordinate educational programming (in the form of workshops) for students in areas as diverse as making an effective oral/poster presentation, ethics in research, and navigating the IRB process. We propose to establish an Office for Student Research that will build on current student research efforts on campus and provide a support mechanism for existing students while expanding opportunities for students in other disciplines. We propose to establish the Office initially using a half-time director who is a faculty member on assignment. Current staff in the Office of the AVP for Research and Graduate Studies will initially provide support for the Office. **Request: \$25,000/yr (faculty buyout)**

III. Strategic Budgeted Carryover

Item 1. Student Research Stipends, \$50,000. See justification under Provost Enhancement Requests, Priority 1.

Item 2. Grant Administration Review, \$25,000. See justification under Provost Enhancement Requests, Priority 2.

IV. Provost Enhancement Requests

Priority 1. Student Research Stipends. The proposed Office of Student Research and Innovation is likely to begin making research stipend awards in the spring and summer of 2019. It is anticipated that there will be 25 fellowships awarded in the spring semester and in the summer. We propose an academic year fellowship of \$1,250 each (\$1,000 stipend and \$250 in travel/supplies) for a total of \$31,250 in spring 2019. The summer fellowships are anticipated to be \$4,500 (\$4,000 stipend and \$500 in travel/supplies) for a total of \$112,500. In the absence of permanent funding (see above), we are requesting to share funding for the spring and first half of summer 2019, or \$87,500. **Request: \$37,500 (\$50,000 SBC contributed by the AVP for Research and Graduate Studies)**

Priority 2. Grant Administration Review. Grant administration has been restructured in order to provide better service to PIs. RSP is now providing both pre-award (i.e. grant submission) and post-award (i.e. grant management) support to faculty and staff PIs. Despite this restructuring, there are significant obstacles to a full implementation of the PI support services. Academic Affairs plans to partner with Finance and Planning to engage a third party specialist in grant administration to evaluate structure, processes, and procedures and to implement best practices to ensure full compliance with federal and state regulations. It is anticipated that the total cost could reach \$100,000, which is to be split between Academic Affairs and Finance and Planning. The Office of Research and Graduate Studies plans to contribute \$25,000, and requests up to \$25,000 in Provost Enhancement funding to

pay for the review. **Request: \$25,000 (to be matched by the AVP for Research and Graduate Studies)**

V. Personnel Requests: Tenure Track Faculty

None

VI. Personnel Requests: Tenure Track Faculty-Non-reappointment or tenure-denial/death

None

VI. Facilities Requests

None