

College of Design

Research & Outreach Investment Process

Background:

- The College needs a sustainable mechanism for funding research and outreach across the College. Our State allocation will continue to decline; it is likely that within a decade (or less) we will have no State allocation.
- Collegiate allocations to research and outreach efforts have largely been based on historical trends or Compact initiatives, and have been generally limited to established centers.
- Faculty have frequently expressed concern over the lack of research and outreach support, a strong interest in spending more time on research (2010 Pulse Survey), and frustration over apparent unequal access to the limited funds that are available.
- Compact funds, while important for new initiative investment, are not necessarily intended for indefinite use.
- The recent R&O administrative review as well as the ongoing budget challenges prompted a closer look at the historical allocations.

Description: Effective FY13, the College of Design will establish an annual investment pool of up to \$150,000 in non-recurring funds from which all **members of the CDes faculty assembly** can request funding of up to \$25,000 for their individual research and outreach efforts. This annual fund is intended to support innovative research and outreach in the College of Design and align research and outreach with the College's vision, transforming design practice and education through *applying and advancing design thinking* and understanding the social, environmental, and economic ramifications of design problems.

Investment Pool Objectives:

1. Promote research and outreach efforts
2. Equalize access to college investment funds
3. Move away from historic funding
4. Establish a sustainable model for investment

Annual Process & Timeline:

- October: RFP announced
- Beginning of spring semester: RFP reminder
- **March 1: Proposals due**
- March – April: Deans Group evaluates proposals and prioritizes awards
- May 1: Award recipients notified [after completion of University budget process]
- July 1: Funds are made available

Eligibility: The R&O investment pool is available to tenured and tenure track faculty, contract faculty, and academic research and outreach professional & administrative (P&A) staff on full time (75% time or greater) appointments [generally members of the Faculty assembly as defined by the CDes constitution].

Attention will be paid to ensure a representative proportion of junior, non-tenured faculty applicants receive these awards. Only one application as PI per person is permitted although faculty may participate in other applications.

Evaluation Criteria: The CDes Deans' group along with the Chair of the Faculty Assembly* will review the applications and rate proposals based on the following:

- Quality and clarity of proposal: does the proposal make a clear, articulate case for the proposed use of funds?
- Appropriateness for requested budget: how well does the proposed use of funds fit within the proposed budget? Is the budgeted adequate to address the stated goals of the proposal?
- Merit and impact: will the proposed use of funds make a positive contribution to the field? Will awarding funds the proposal be money well spent?
- Collaboration/Sustainability: does the proposed project have the potential for collaboration and matching funds? Is there potential for future external funding?
- Previous funding: has the applicant received past funding? Was the previously funded project successful?

* [Should the Chair of the Faculty Assembly apply for research support, the vice Chair will participate in the selection process. Should both apply, a senior faculty member will be appointed by the Dean.]

Examples of acceptable use of Investment Pool awards :

- Student/staff support
- Summer projects
- Course buy-outs
- Research staff time
- Bridge funds to new initiatives
- Travel
- Specialized equipment or software
- Supplement to external funding

Prohibited expenses:

- Hospitality expenses, including food and alcohol
- Salary supplement while on sabbatic

Expectations for Award Recipients:

- Submit written report upon project completion or at the end of the fiscal year (no more than 2 pages) summarizing project outcome. Report must include project expenditures.
- Expenditures are to be made within the fiscal year of the award. Unspent funds will revert to the Investment Pool for the following fiscal year.
- Recipients will participate in a Research and/or Outreach slam within the following year.
- Future applications will not be considered without obvious progress on previously awarded projects.

College of Design Investment Pool - Application for Funds

Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2012

Name:

Co-PI(s):

Project Title:

Project Description (limited to 1200 characters):

Project Timeline:

Amount Requested (up to \$25,000):

Detailed, itemized budget:

How does the project

1. Address the goals of the college?
2. Advance your research and outreach agenda?

Submit information electronically to:

Brad Hokanson, Associate Dean for Research and Outreach, brad@umn.edu

Please cc: Stephanie Dilworth, sdilwort@umn.edu