Supporting Proposals and Unique Research (SPUR) Program

The Supporting Proposals and Unique Research (SPUR) Program is a program to support and encourage the research environment by further supporting external research grant activity at Fairfield University. The purpose of this program is to enhance faculty and faculty-student research and scholarship, and to increase the number of large external grant proposals submitted by Fairfield faculty. The SPUR Program is administered by the Office of the Provost.

The Supporting Proposals and Unique Research (SPUR) Program will support research by providing stipends to faculty (principal investigator) submitting grant proposals meeting the following criteria:

I.) Submitting research and institutional proposals with a budget over $500,000
II.) Submitting research and institutional proposals between $100,000 - $500,000
III.) Special and unique circumstances may be considered with proposal budgets less than $100,000

The Principal Investigator (PI) submitting proposals greater than $500,000 will be considered to receive $2,000; PI’s submitting proposals with a budget of $100,000 - $500,000 will be considered to receive a $1000 stipend. PI’s may be eligible for an additional $500 upon resubmission of the same proposal. A PI who has already received at least one SPUR award during a fiscal year may be eligible to receive an additional SPUR award depending on available funding. Awards will be paid as supplemental salary.

This program prioritizes tenured and tenure-track full-time faculty. Professors of the Practice (POPs) and Visiting Assistant Professors (VAPs) are eligible depending on the nature of the grant and their position requirements as determined by the appropriate Dean.

SPUR funding will be distributed through a two-step review process. The initial review of the SPUR proposal form will be conducted by the appropriate grants director: Corporate, Foundation, or Sponsored Programs. The final review will be conducted by the Provost, who will determine appropriateness of the request for SPUR support. In addition, the Provost reserves the right to make expeditious decisions under special circumstances and may consider proposals of less than $100,000.

Applications for Fall and Spring will be accepted on a rolling basis, starting September 1. Applications should include (1) a brief explanation for the request and a general overview of the research/project, (2) identify the funding entity (i.e., NSF, NIH, HRSA), (3) provide an estimated budget and estimated indirect costs, and (4) identify the status of the submission: new, resubmission, or special circumstance. Complete the SPUR Program Form (Attachment 1) and send to the grants director overseeing the funder identified. Prior to completing the SPUR request form, contact the grants director who will be directly involved. For instance, if it is a federal funder identified to support your project then the Sponsored Programs director would be the point of contact.

The SPUR Program is to recognize and support grant development to further faculty research agendas, to further enhance student research mentoring, and to advance and contribute to the existing research activity at the University.
Supporting Proposals and Unique Research (SPUR) Program Form

Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director ____________________  EXT: __________

Department: ____________________  School: ________________

Date of Request: ____________________

Type of Funding Entity:  Corporate _______ Foundation ________ Federal/State ________

Funding Entity Name: ____________________

The Proposal is:  NEW: _______  RESUBMIT: ________  SPECIAL: __________

Section 1: If applicable, please describe the reason this should be considered a special circumstance.

Section 2: Briefly describe the scope of work to be supported by the external grant(s). Please describe your estimated timeline for submission of the external grant and any other factors affecting this timeline.

Section 3: Please explain the how, if any, student research assistants will be included in your research or project.

Section 4: What is the estimated total project costs and associated estimated indirect costs; along with the number of years to be funded.

PI/PD Name ____________________  Grants Office Director: ________________

Amount Recommended $ __________

Signature ____________________  Signature ____________________

Approved: ________________  Amount Approved: $ __________

Office of the Provost