University of Rhode Island
SBPC Divisional New Funding Request Proposals
FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

Due: Friday, April 21, 2017 - Please submit to lindab@uri.edu

*No proposals will be accepted after April 21, 2017

This form should be used by a division/unit head for each strategic new funding request (which may include several items within it) and divisions may submit multiple requests.

Name of Proposal: Grant Writer to Support Expansion of Research, Scholarship and Creative Work by Faculty and Students

Academic Division/Area:

Priority # ___1_____

All divisions and Athletics should use this template to submit any/each new funding request to the SBPC. Consideration should be given to share and communicate initiatives being proposed to determine potential partnering and synergies between and among divisions and Athletics prior to submission.

All proposals should clearly identify (a) what is being requested, (b) rationale for the request, (c) associated costs, and (d) possibility of alternative (partial) funding source(s) (including reallocation or cost share). The Proposal should also identify (e) how the request relates to URI’s Strategic Academic plan and (f) benefits URI. Data (including benchmark data) may be provided with the request to help support it.

1. A. Please briefly describe the process and timeline as to how these new funding priorities were developed or derived? B. What processes or incentives have been considered to encourage reallocation from within the division/unit?

A recent report from the National Science Foundation (NSF) highlighted what we all know, that federal funding of higher education research has continued to decline since its peak in 2011\(^1\). Our faculty know all too well the difficulty of getting their grant proposals funded. As an example, the majority of grant funding currently comes from NSF, which funded only 21% of the research grant proposals received in each of 2014, 2015, and 2016\(^2\). While our faculty who applied for NSF funding in 2015 and 2016 had a success rate of 22%, 79% were unsuccessful and the competition for federally funded research grants will likely only increase, given the budget cuts (e.g., National Institutes of Health) and the elimination of whole agencies (e.g., National Endowment for the Arts; National Endowment for the Humanities) recently proposed by President Trump.\(^3\)
2. Please identify what is being requested, associated costs, possibility of alternative (partial) funding source(s) and/or any match funding, and the rationale for each requested item. Use as much space as needed. Please indicate also any possibility of alternative or match funding.

I am requesting funding for one **grant writer** for the University to help faculty and students be more competitive for grant and contract applications in these times of financial constraint. To be effective from the beginning, the grant writer must have several years of experience and some track record of success in helping to get competitive federal research grants and contracts. Competitive full time salaries for people with an appropriate level of experience range from $47,000 to $70,000. Estimating a negotiated salary of $60,000 plus fringe benefits, the cost for this position would be approximately $87,600 per year. The Division can contribute $10,000 annually to fund the position. Therefore I am asking for **$77,600** annually for this position. If that grant writer’s help is responsible for bringing in $145,000 (approximately 0.2% of our annual research expenditures) in new grants each year (approximately 0.2% of our annual research expenditures), the indirect costs from those two new grants would pay for the position.

Both novice and established investigators do not know for whom to write a grant proposal or how much or what sort of detail to include. Many are surprised to find that the writing style that made them successful as academics is not well suited to crafting a winning grant proposal. They also do not know that they can and should take an active role in identifying potential review groups and interacting with program staff at the funding agencies, even before starting to write. An experienced grant writer not only has the writing skills needed to craft a winning grant proposal, he or she also knows how to work with staff at the funding agencies and how to use available data to advantage in planning and preparing a grant application.

3. Is this request strategic and how does the request support or relate to URI’s Strategic Academic Plan?

This request for an experienced grant writer for the Division is strategic and is completely aligned with the Academic Strategic Plan, 2016-2021. Goal 2 of the Plan is to “Expand Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work.” Strategy 1 of Goal 2 specifically speaks to the need to broaden support for significant growth in research, which can be accomplished primarily by increasing the level of research funding for our investigators.

Strategy 4 of Goal 2, to involve more graduate and undergraduate students in research and creative projects, can only be accomplished if our faculty have the funding to support both the research per se and the students who wish to participate in that research. While the State may provide some of the funding, the vast majority of the funding has and will continue to come from competitive grants from the federal government and foundations. The grant writer will increase our chances of success in securing funding from these entities.

4. How does the request provide additional benefit to URI? (Enrollment, student services, condition of campus, fundraising/development, public relations, etc.)
The direct benefit of having an experience grant writer to support our faculty is an increase in funding for research and other scholarly activities. The secondary benefits however, are numerous and wide-ranging. As faculty have a greater success rate getting their grant proposals funded;

- The additional indirect costs from those grants go to fund other research and educational activities on campus;
- Increase the national ranking of the institution, which in turn can
  - attract even better students and faculty; and
  - attract more philanthropic donations to the University.

5. Please provide any data (including benchmark data) relative to the request OR a statement as to why no benchmark data is available.

6. Please complete and enclose the cost summary excel document from the Budget Office.

References
2. NSF Funding Profile FY 2016, Summary Tables 4
3. Office of Management and Budget, America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again,” 2017