


MEMORANDUM

To: VSoE Faculty

From: Maja J Matarić 
Senior Associate Dean for Research

Date: September 3, 2009

Subject: VSoE Research Innovation Fund Call for Proposals

In fall 2007, VSoE introduced the Research Innovation Fund, a new program aimed at fostering novel strategic research directions, projects, and activities in the school. Two rounds of RIF funding have been completed; for details about the Fund and past awards, please see: <http://viterbi.usc.edu/research/info/vsoeinitiatives/vsoe-research-innovation-fund.htm>

This memo is the Fall 2009 call for proposals for the Fund.

Faculty with novel ideas and collaborations are encouraged to apply. Examples of activities fundable by this program include: 1) organizing workshops at USC that bring external experts and visibility to the school; 2) establishing or significantly revitalizing an Organized Research Unit (ORU), team, and proposal; 3) obtaining pilot data toward strategic identifiable external funding opportunities; and 4) establishing lasting research resources for the school. Other innovative ideas for supporting new strategic research programs are invited.

Faculty of any rank may apply, excluding visiting faculty and those having received an award from the Fund in the past 3 years. To be considered for this award, applications must provide a realistic justification of the strategic value of the grant, demonstrating how the award will make a difference in stimulating new research relevant to the school's priorities or in new attracting research support. Applicants are strongly urged to review the list of past awards (at the above URL) for illustration of the nature and scope of the intended uses for the Fund.

Awardees will have discretion in the budgeting and re-budgeting of funds to meet their research needs within the guidelines of the fund and the terms of the proposal. However, funds may not be transferred to another project. Awards will include fringe benefits but are not assessed indirect costs and are not transferable to other institutions.

A brief (2 page) report of the results of the funded project will be due one year after the award is made.

The proposals should include the following components:

- 1) Title page: project title and list of participating faculty (1 page)
- 2) Project description: brief motivation, background, and project plan (up to 3 pages)
- 3) Budget: brief budget justification (up to 1 page)
- 4) CVs of the participating faculty

All materials should be submitted in electronic form to Eddie Avila (edwardav@usc.edu) by 9am, Monday, September 21, 2009. It is expected that the awarded funds will be made available immediately.

As in the past, up to \$50,000 in Fund support is expected to be awarded in this cycle, over multiple awards, usually about 5 to 6. All applications will be reviewed by a faculty committee or with input from the Engineering Faculty Council's Research Committee, which will provide advisory input to the Sr. Associate Dean for Research and the Dean for final award selection. Questions regarding this program should be directed to the Sr. Associate Dean for Research Maja Mataric, at mataric@usc.edu.