

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CORRIDOR (URC)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IN ENERGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (4/7/08)

Questions Regarding Use of Funds

1. I am writing to clarify a point in the URC Alternative Energy RFP. It states that funds cannot be used for faculty salary. Does this include research faculty salary, or only tenure-track faculty?

Response: The inability to use funding for faculty salary includes research track as well as tenure-track faculty.

2. One of the projects involves faculty members from UM, MSU, and WSU. We agreed that for each university, we will come up with a matching GRA for 3 years to the project. Can the Vice President for Research Office provide the matching?

Response: Each URC institution (MSU, UM, WSU) is already paying \$300,000 of the \$900,000, so there will be no further institutional funds available. University funds cannot be used to match university funds in this competition.

Questions Regarding Collaborations, Signature Approvals, Bio Sketches, Subcontracts

1. WSU is the PI on this project. Does MSU submit a subcontract budget to us? Or should it be a separate MSU budget? Should there be a lead PI on the MSU side?

Response: MSU should submit a subcontract budget (in the same format as the prime applicant) which should be included within the prime applicant's proposal (the WSU proposal). Please name the person leading the MSU effort, and please submit that person's bio sketch.

2. If we have collaborators from MSU, UM and WSU, do we need to go through the official proposal submission process at each of the universities?

Response: Yes, your proposal will need to go through your university's Grants & Contracts Office.

3. Do we need any chair's, dean's signatures? Is it counted as part of the 5 pages?

Response: Yes, both the chair and dean need to sign approval. A cover sheet comprised of the title of the proposal, names of the PI and Co-PIs, Chairs' and Deans' signatures and Grants & Contracts signatures will not counted as part of the 5 pages.

4. If there is a subcontracting arrangement among the universities, what paperwork needs to be submitted along with the proposal?

Response: The authorized institutional (Grants & Contracts) endorsement on the cover page will signify that each participating institution is aware that a subcontract may take place.

Questions Regarding Bio Sketches

1. The RFP says the bios should be a total of 4 pages. If we have 9 faculty, can we have 9 pages?

Response: Yes, 9-10 pages would be fine.

Questions Proposal Submission Time and Submitter

1. Exactly when are the proposals due?

Response: By Midnight on the evening of Monday, April 14.

2. Who submits the proposal – the PI or the Grants and Contracts Office?

Response: The PI may submit the proposal after he/she has obtained the appropriate signatures on the cover page.

Number of Grant Recipients

1. In the RFP, it mentioned the total amount of funding is \$900,000. I am just wondering: what kind of range is for an individual regular research proposal?

Response: The URC chose not to name an expected number of grant recipients -- that is, they chose not to state how many proposals might be funded. Therefore, it's a little difficult to respond to your question. I can only surmise that they are willing to fund at different levels depending on the size and needs of the group that is applying. So if your proposal includes multiple universities, the budget would be expected to be a little larger. If you have a proposal that will not include all URC universities, the budget would be expected to be smaller.