

Research Council (Norman)
2024–2025 Report
Submitted by Farina King, Chair

History and Membership:

The Research Council was approved as a council by the President of the University of Oklahoma upon recommendation of the Faculty Senate and the University of Oklahoma Student Association in December 1972. The Research Council is charged with the promotion and development of research and creative activity throughout the University community. The Council serves as adviser to the President, the Senior Vice President and Provost, the Vice President for Research and Partnerships (VPRP) and Faculty Senate in matters regarding research. The primary function of the Council is to evaluate internal proposals requesting university funds for the support of research and creative activities and to make recommendations concerning the awarding of research professorships.

The Research Council consists of 15 members—five appointed by the Office of the President and 10 by the Faculty Senate— chosen to provide a balanced representation of disciplines across the University by including faculty from each of the following six areas:

1. Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, EEMPS (3 members)
2. Social and Behavioral Sciences, SBS (3 members)
3. Life Sciences, LS (2 members)
4. Humanities, HUM (3 members)
5. Education/Professional/Other, EPO (2 members)
6. Fine Arts, FA (2 members)

The faculty members of the FY25 Research Council, their terms and appointments are:

Name	Service Dates	Appointment	Category
Eric Day	August 2024 – May 2027	Faculty Senate	SBS
Firat Demir	August 2022 – May 2025	Faculty Senate	SBS
Somik Ghosh	August 2023 – May 2026	Faculty Senate	EPO
Seth Gordon	August 2023 – May 2026	Faculty Senate	FA
Jennifer Holland	August 2024 – May 2027	President	HUM
Ziho Kang	August 2023 – May 2026	President	EEMPS
Farina King	August 2022 – May 2025	Faculty Senate	HUM
Paul Lawson	August 2024 – May 2027	Faculty Senate	LS
Kun Lu	August 2024 – May 2027	Faculty Senate	EPO
Samuel Perry	August 2022 – May 2025	President	SBS
Sridhar Radhakrishnan	August 2024 – May 2027	Faculty Senate	EEMPS
Jessica Ruyle	August 2024 – May 2026	President	EEMPS
Uldarico Sarmiento	August 2022 – May 2025	Faculty Senate	FA
Ingo Schlupp	August 2022 – May 2025	President	LS
Cedric Tolliver	August 2023 – May 2026	Faculty Senate	HUM

The 2024-2025 Chair of the Research Council is Dr. Farina King from the Department of Native American Studies. The 2025-2026 Chair of the Research Council will be Dr. Somik Ghosh from the Division of Construction Science. The Research Council is administered through the Office of the VPRP via Rose Filley in FY25.

Budget:

An annual budget of \$400,000 was split between the Faculty Investment Program (\$250,000) and Junior Faculty Fellowships (\$150,000). In FY25, a total of \$250,755 was awarded through the FIP. The total amount awarded through the JFF was \$177,847. Table 1 shows the Research Council budget and FIP and JFF awards from FY14 to FY25.

Year	FIP Budget Allocation	JFF Budget Allocation	Total VPRP Budget Allocation	FIP Funding Awarded	JFF Funding Awarded	Total VPRP Funding Awarded
2013-2014	\$275,000	\$150,000	\$425,000	\$278,107	\$149,276	\$427,383
2014-2015	\$275,000	\$150,000	\$425,000	\$257,377	\$173,382	\$430,759
2015-2016	\$275,000	\$150,000	\$425,000	\$291,535	\$133,014	\$424,549
2016-2017	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$289,690	\$145,980	\$435,670
2017-2018	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$314,698	\$142,633	\$457,331
2018-2019	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$286,454	\$116,406	\$402,860
2019-2020	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$265,294	\$127,946	\$393,240
2020-2021	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$260,408	\$159,453	\$419,861
2021-2022	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$284,537	\$147,782	\$432,319
2022-2023	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$283,409	\$135,592	\$419,001
2023-2024	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$266,178	\$143,297	\$409,475
2024-2025	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$250,755	\$177,847	\$427,847

Table 1: Research Council budget allocations and disbursements from FY14–FY25.

Primary Activities:

The primary activity of the Research Council during the 2024-2025 academic year (FY25) was to review proposals and make recommendations to the Vice President for Research (VPR) pertaining to awards and honors under his administration, specifically:

1. Faculty Investment Program (Up to \$15,000)
2. Junior Faculty Fellowships (\$7,000 + Fringe)
3. George Lynn Cross Research Professorship (recommendation to President)
4. Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research

Other activities: This year, the Research Council also discussed structural and financial challenges facing the Council, including the increasingly constrained role of the Council in the University’s research ecosystem. Simultaneously, an Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Research Council (CSRC) was convened through the Faculty Senate. In March 2025 the CSRC produced a report of their findings, which the Faculty Senate shared with the Research Council. The Research Council produced a response to the report from the CSRC and shared it with the Faculty Senate in April 2025 (see appendix).

Faculty Investment Program (FIP):

Academic Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate (%)	Percentage of Total Program Budget	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
EEMPS	14	3	\$43,994.00	\$14,665.00	21%	17%	15%
SBS	9	2	\$28,282.00	\$14,141.00	22%	11%	10%
LS	3	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	33%	6%	5%
HUM	12	4	\$49,395.00	\$12,349.00	33%	20%	20%
FA	18	5	\$52,884.81	\$10,577.00	28%	21%	25%
EPO	22	5	\$61,199.21	\$12,240.00	23%	25%	25%
Totals	78	20	\$250,755.02	\$13,162.00	35%	100%	100%

Table 2: FY25 Faculty Investment Program proposals and awards by discipline area.

In FY25, there were 78 submissions to the Faculty Investment Program, representing a 28% increase in the number of proposals received over last year. Proposals submitted by faculty in the Education/Professional/Other (EPO) category nearly tripled in FY25 with 22 submissions (up from 8 in FY24). This year, 12 proposals were submitted from faculty in the Humanities (HUM) disciplines. This is a 41% increase compared to FY24. The number of proposal submissions from the Fine Arts (FA) disciplines also continues to rise, from 14 proposals last year to 18 proposals submitted this year. Proposals from the Life Sciences (LS) disciplines remain the lowest number of submissions but increased over last year (0 proposals received from the life sciences in FY24). The number of proposals from the Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (EEMPS) has remained consistent over the past three years (14, 12, and 15 in FY25, 24, and 23, respectively).

Of the 78 proposals submitted, 17 were resubmissions. The overall funding rate for FY25 FIP proposals is 26%, with 20 proposals of the 78 submitted, funded. Of these 20 funded proposals, 6 were resubmissions of a previously declined proposal—resubmissions represent 30% of the FY25 awards. The funding rates from FY20-FY25 are listed below for quick comparison, with details provided in Appendix A:

- FY25: 20 of 78 submissions were funded (26%)
- FY24: 20 of 61 submissions were funded (33%)
- FY23: 21 of 46 submissions were funded (46%)
- FY22: 21 of 42 submissions were funded (50%)
- FY21: 20 of 34 submissions were funded (59%)

A summary of these data is provided in Table 2. Note, the quality of proposals was high, and some meritorious proposals were not funded due to budget limitations.

Junior Faculty Fellowship (JFF):

Academic Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Budget	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
EEMPS	11	9	\$78,610.40	\$8,735.00	82%	44%	43%
SBS	11	6	\$51,420.05	\$8,570.00	55%	29%	29%
LS	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HUM	8	5	\$39,371.20	\$7,874.00	63%	22%	24%
FA	3	0	\$0.00	N/A	0%	0%	0%
EPO	3	1	\$8,445.89	\$8,445.00	33%	5%	5%
Totals	36	21	\$177,847.54	\$8,406.00	47%	100%	100%

Table 3. FY25 Junior Faculty Fellowship proposals and awards by discipline.

In fiscal year 2025, there were 36 JFF proposals submitted of which 21 were funded (58%). The distribution of applications across disciplines is varied, with the highest number of proposals received from the Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (EEMPS), Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), and Humanities (HUM) disciplines. Proposals from the Life Sciences (LS) disciplines were not submitted, and this is consistent with a historically low number of proposals from these disciplines over the last five years (0-2 proposals). The number of proposals received from the Fine Arts disciplines remains low and there was a drop in proposals from the Education/Professional/Other disciplines compared to last year (3 proposals; down from 9 last year). The overall funding rate for FY25 is 58%, with the funding rate by discipline provided in Table 3. For comparison with the last 5 fiscal years, the funding rates are as follows:

- FY25: 21 of 36 submissions funded (58%)
- FY24: 17 of 46 submissions funded (37%)
- FY23: 16 of 41 submissions funded (39%)
- FY22: 19 of 35 submissions funded (54%)
- FY21: 18 of 19 submissions funded (95%)

George Lynn Cross Professorship:

The Research Council received eight nominations for the 2025 George Lynn Cross Research Professorship. Two nominees were advanced to the stage of requesting external letters. The Council's recommendation for the award was Dr. Doerte Blume (Department of Physics and Astronomy). Feedback on the nomination packets for those nominees not selected for the award were shared with the Office of the Provost.

Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award:

There were three nominations for the Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research. The Council recommended Dr. Brittany Hott (Department of Educational Psychology) for the award. Feedback on the nomination packets for those nominees not selected for the award were shared with the Office of the Provost.

Concluding Remarks and Recommendations:

As the Faculty Research Council (FRC) concludes the 2024–2025 academic year, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a faculty-driven research culture that is transparent, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of scholars across the University of Oklahoma. This year's discussions, shaped by thoughtful feedback from council members and the broader faculty community, have underscored urgent concerns regarding the stagnation of internal research funding, disproportionate administrative control over research allocations, and a lack of structural support for faculty engaged in service through the FRC. These challenges threaten not only the Council's effectiveness but also the broader goal of advancing a robust and inclusive research environment.

We strongly recommend that the University double internal research funding over the next three years, beginning with increases to the Faculty Investment Program (FIP) awards to reflect current graduate research assistant costs and the growth of the faculty body since 2012. We also urge that the FRC's authority be reaffirmed as both an internal funding review body and an advisory group, rather than introducing new committees that could dilute faculty governance. Expanding the FRC's membership and creating a vice chair position would address workload imbalances and promote continuity, while structured incentives, such as course releases, added pay, research funding, or recognition in annual evaluations, should be considered to ensure that service on the Council is sustainable and properly valued.

To strengthen faculty trust and engagement, we call for greater transparency and two-way communication between the FRC and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships (VPRP). This includes holding at least one town hall per semester, maintaining a dedicated webpage with clear funding guidelines and FAQs that faculty and departments chairs are directed to, and establishing routine consultation between the FRC and VPRP before launching major initiatives. By revitalizing the role of the FRC and supporting faculty at all levels, the University will be better positioned to cultivate excellence in research and scholarship. We thank all members of the 2024–2025 Council for their time, insight, and advocacy in advancing these goals as well as Rose Filley, Dr. Ann West, and others at the VPRP Office for their support. We also welcome the new Vice President for Research and Partnerships Dr. Matthew Hulver and hope to continue proactive work with him to advance research at the University of Oklahoma.

Appendix:
Historical data on FIP and JFF submissions and awards

FY24

FIP							
Academic Year 2023-2024 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate (%)	Percentage of Total Program Budget	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
Engineering/Physical Sciences	18	5	\$62,797.51	\$12,560.00	28%	24%	25%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	10	6	\$79,901.00	\$13,317.00	60%	30%	30%
Life Sciences	4	1	\$14,930.00	\$14,930.00	25%	6%	5%
Humanities	7	4	\$53,614.07	\$13,404.00	57%	20%	20%
Fine Arts	14	2	\$26,390.50	\$13,195.00	14%	10%	10%
EPO	8	2	\$28,545.00	\$14,273.00	25%	11%	10%
Totals	61	20	\$266,178.08	\$13,613.17	35%	100%	100%

JFF							
Academic Year 2023-2024 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Budget	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
Engineering/Physical Sciences	12	4	\$37,464.00	\$9,366.00	33%	26%	24%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	14	3	\$25,715.50	\$8,571.83	21%	18%	18%
Life Sciences	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Humanities	8	5	\$39,614.60	\$7,922.92	63%	28%	29%
Fine Arts	3	1	\$9,366.00	\$9,366.00	33%	7%	6%
Education/Professional/ Other	9	4	\$31,137.20	\$7,784.30	44%	22%	24%
Totals	46	17	\$143,297.30	\$8,602.21	39%	100%	100%

FY23 (Note, since FY23, gender data is not being collected.)

Faculty Investment Program							
Academic Year 2022-2023 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
Engineering/Physical Sciences	15	6	\$84,899.30	\$14,149.88	40%	31%	29%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	9	2	\$19,264.00	\$9,632.00	22%	7%	10%
Life Sciences	1	1	\$14,940.00	\$14,940.00	100%	6%	5%
Humanities	8	8	\$97,177.31	\$12,147.16	100%	36%	38%
Fine Arts	5	2	\$24,820.00	\$12,410.00	40%	5%	10%
Education/Professional/Other	8	2	\$29,558.86	\$14,779.43	25%	11%	10%
Totals	46	21	\$270,659.47	\$13,009.75	46%	95%	100%
Junior Faculty Fellowship Program							
Academic Year 2022-2023 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
Engineering/Physical Sciences	7	1	\$9,207.80	\$9,207.80	14%	7%	6%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	17	7	\$62,246.80	\$8,892.40	41%	46%	44%
Life Sciences	4	1	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	25%	5%	6%
Humanities	7	4	\$31,910.96	\$7,977.74	57%	24%	25%
Fine Arts	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%
Education/Professional/Other	5	3	\$25,226.36	\$8,408.79	60%	19%	19%
Totals	41	16	\$135,591.92	\$6,914.45	39%	100%	100%

FY22**Faculty Investment Program**

Academic Year 2021-2022 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded	Gender of Submitted Proposals	Gender of Submitted Proposals	Gender of Successful Proposals	Gender of Successful Proposals
								Female	%	Female	Female
Engineering/Physical Sciences	8	4	\$58,500	\$14,625	50%	21%	19%	1	13%	1	25%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	8	5	\$72,341	\$14,468	63%	25%	24%	5	63%	3	60%
Life Sciences	2	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Humanities	10	6	\$71,916	\$11,986	60%	25%	29%	6	60%	5	83%
Fine Arts	1	1	\$15,000	\$15,000	100%	5%	5%	1	100%	1	100%
Education/Professional/Other	13	5	\$66,780	\$13,356	38%	23%	24%	6	46%	3	60%
Totals	42	21	\$284,537	\$13,549	50%	100%	100%	19	45%	13	62%

Junior Faculty Fellowship Program

Academic Year 2021-2022 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded	Gender of Submitted Proposals	Gender Percentage of Submitted Proposals	Gender of Successful Proposals	Gender Percentage of Successful Proposals
								Female	Female	Female	Female
Engineering/Physical Sciences	9	5	\$18,802	\$3,760	56%	12%	26%	4	44%	2	40%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	12	6	\$74,436	\$12,406	50%	47%	32%	9	75%	5	83%
Life Sciences	4	2	\$25,452	\$12,726	50%	16%	11%	1	25%	0	0%
Humanities	6	4	\$23,401	\$5,850	67%	15%	21%	3	50%	2	50%
Fine Arts	2	1	\$17,361	\$17,361	50%	11%	5%	0	0%	0	0%
Education/Professional/Other	2	1	\$0	\$0	0%	0%	5%	2	0%	1	0%
Totals	35	19	\$159,453	\$8,392	54%	100%	100%	19	54%	10	53%

FY21

Faculty Investment Program															
Academic Year 2020-2021 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded	Gender of Submitted Proposals		Gender Percentage of Submitted Proposals		Gender of Successful Proposals		Gender Percentage of Successful Proposals	
								Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Engineering/Physical Sciences	14	9	\$129,430	\$14,381	64%	50%	45%	4	10	29%	71%	2	7	22%	78%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	1	1	\$1,253	\$1,253	100%	0%	5%	1	0	100%	0%	1	0	100%	0%
Life Sciences	2	1	\$7,801	\$7,801	50%	3%	5%	0	2	0%	100%	0	1	0%	100%
Humanities	2	2	\$30,000	\$15,000	100%	12%	10%	1	1	50%	50%	1	1	50%	50%
Fine Arts	3	2	\$28,487	\$14,243	67%	11%	10%	1	2	33%	67%	1	1	50%	50%
Education/Professional/Other	12	5	\$63,438	\$12,688	42%	24%	25%	7	2	58%	17%	4	1	80%	20%
Totals	34	20	\$260,408	\$13,020	59%	100%	100%	14	17	41%	50%	9	11	45%	55%
Junior Faculty Fellowship Program															
Academic Year 2020-2021 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded	Gender of Submitted Proposals		Gender Percentage of Submitted Proposals		Gender of Successful Proposals		Gender Percentage of Successful Proposals	
								Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Engineering/Physical Sciences	2	2	\$18,802	\$9,401	100%	12%	11%	0	2	0%	100%	0	2	0%	100%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	9	8	\$74,436	\$9,305	89%	47%	44%	5	4	56%	44%	4	4	50%	50%
Life Sciences	3	3	\$25,452	\$8,484	100%	16%	17%	1	2	33%	67%	1	2	33%	67%
Humanities	3	3	\$23,401	\$7,800	100%	15%	17%	1	2	33%	67%	1	2	33%	67%
Fine Arts	2	2	\$17,361	\$8,681	100%	11%	11%	2	0	100%	0%	2	0	100%	0%
Education/Professional/Other	0	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%
Totals	19	18	\$159,453	\$8,858	95%	100%	100%	9	10	47%	53%	8	10	44%	56%

FY20

Faculty Investment Program															
Academic Year 2019-2020 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded	Gender of Submitted Proposals		Gender Percentage of Submitted Proposals		Gender of Successful Proposals		Gender Percentage of Successful Proposals	
								Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Engineering/Physical Sciences	16	9	\$134,950	\$14,994	56%	51%	47%	4	11	25%	69%	2	6	22%	67%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	9	4	\$51,478	\$12,870	44%	19%	21%	5	3	56%	33%	1	2	25%	50%
Life Sciences	0	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%
Humanities	4	1	\$14,000	\$14,000	25%	5%	5%	1	1	25%	25%	0	1	0%	100%
Fine Arts	3	1	\$13,546	\$13,546	33%	5%	5%	1	2	33%	67%	0	1	0%	100%
Education/Professional/Other	11	4	\$51,320	\$12,830	36%	19%	21%	5	6	45%	55%	2	2	50%	50%
Totals	43	19	\$265,294	\$13,963	44%	100%	100%	16	23	37%	53%	5	12	26%	63%
Junior Faculty Fellowship Program															
Academic Year 2019-2020 Discipline	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Total Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded	Gender of Submitted Proposals		Gender Percentage of Submitted Proposals		Gender of Successful Proposals		Gender Percentage of Successful Proposals	
								Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Engineering/Physical Sciences	5	4	\$36,632	\$9,158	80%	29%	27%	2	3	40%	60%	2	2	50%	50%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	13	6	\$49,342	\$8,224	46%	39%	40%	8	5	62%	38%	4	2	67%	33%
Life Sciences	3	2	\$16,324	\$8,162	67%	13%	13%	2	1	0%	0%	2	0	100%	0%
Humanities	5	3	\$25,648	\$8,549	60%	20%	20%	1	4	20%	80%	0	3	0%	100%
Fine Arts	0	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%
Education/Professional/Other	0	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%
Totals	26	15	\$127,946	\$8,530	58%	100%	100%	13	13	50%	50%	8	7	53%	47%

OU FACULTY RESEARCH COUNCIL

Farina King, Ph.D., FRC Chair | 405-325-2312 | farinaking@ou.edu

April 3, 2025

Faculty Senate
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Faculty Senate:

We, the members of the Faculty Research Council (FRC), write in response to the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Research Council (CSRC). We appreciate the Committee's work and attention to the structural and financial challenges facing the FRC and welcome this opportunity to share our reflections and recommendations.

Our primary concern remains the increasingly constrained role of the FRC in the university's research ecosystem, due in large part to the need to better work through the relationship between the Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships (VPRP) and faculty in the processes of internal research funds. In recent years, a shift in control over internal research funds has diminished the Research Council's ability to function effectively and equitably in service to the faculty. While the Faculty Investment Program (FIP) provides limited monthly awards, it now represents a fraction of the funding and influence the FRC previously held. The current system fosters opacity, centralizes decision-making, and undercuts faculty-led governance in research support.

We urge a redirection of research governance toward shared faculty-administration oversight. To that end, we recommend the FRC be empowered to take on both its historic advisory role and its current funding responsibilities, rather than creating a new Faculty Strategic Research Advisory Committee (FSRAC). This preserves an efficient, faculty-led structure that avoids duplication and confusion while maintaining the Faculty Senate's essential oversight and independence from administrative influence.

We further propose the following key changes:

1. **Budget Expansion:** The stagnant internal research funding over the past decade has not kept pace with rising research costs or faculty numbers. In 2012, a FIP award could support approximately seven months of graduate research assistant (GRA) time. Today, it covers less than four. To remain effective, FIP awards should increase to at least \$30,000. Additionally, we urge a doubling of the total internal

research budget over the next three years, with consideration of supplemental funding support from the OU Foundation where appropriate.

See attached for one of our council member's analyses on what \$15,000 will support. They used ARRC GRA salaries for this (because we had established minimum GRA rates even then), which were much higher than the average in 2012. If more typical rates for 2012 were used, there would be a much bigger delta. They cannot reach \$15,000 exactly, because they had to use integer numbers of months in the spreadsheet. In 2025, a researcher can cover around 3.5 months of a GRA with \$15,000 or \$16,758 will allow someone 4 months. Alternatively, in 2012, \$16,060 covers 7 months of a GRA. Since scientific research is typically exponential in progress (starts slow and then grows rapidly), this is a big difference in what can be accomplished.

2. **Council Capacity and Structure:** To address workload and improve effectiveness, the FRC should expand from 15 to 30 members. A Vice Chair position would also ensure leadership continuity and shared responsibility. This expanded structure will enable the Council to manage internal funding reviews and faculty research advocacy more effectively, without overwhelming individual members.
3. **Transparency and Shared Governance:** We advocate for clearer communication between the VPRP office and the FRC, including the use of scheduled town halls and timely updates about policy changes and funding programs. The FRC should serve as a sounding board for any new research initiatives before they are launched, ensuring genuine faculty consultation and input. A dedicated internal webpage managed by the FRC could facilitate transparency and provide answers to frequently asked questions about funding decisions and procedures.
4. **Recognition of Service:** While some view service on the FRC as a professional obligation, we must acknowledge the increasing demands of this role. Departments and colleges should formally recognize and account for the significant time commitment required, and the university should consider structured incentives such as course releases, stipends, or research development funds to support this essential service on a yearly basis and not just at the end of the council member's three-year term.
5. **Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities:** We believe the FRC should maintain its purview over key research awards, including The George Lynn Cross Research Professorship and The Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research, and participate meaningfully in the selection process for the next VPRP. It is also essential that the Council have input on any adjustments to the internal grants portfolio and review processes. Any changes in award amounts, eligibility, or oversight should be made in collaboration with the FRC.

6. **Legal and DEI Considerations:** We have confirmed that FIP funds originate from a state account, and this carries implications given recent legislative actions and executive orders. It is imperative that all faculty—especially those engaged in sensitive or work that could be construed as or related to “DEI”—receive clear guidance and equitable access to funding without fear of political interference or miscommunication.
7. **Corrections to CSRC Report:** We note a few factual clarifications to the CSRC’s report. For example, the maximum for JFFP is \$7,000, not \$7,500. Additionally, the FRC does not make final “fund/no fund” decisions but ranks proposals and submits the rankings to the administrative assistant, with award decisions and notifications coming from the VPRP’s office.

Finally, we believe that the Faculty Research Council has a pivotal role to play in shaping a faculty-centered research culture at OU. Rather than diluting this role with the creation of overlapping committees or vague administrative advisory groups, we propose building on the FRC’s existing structure and restoring its authority and capacity.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and for your continued partnership in fostering a strong, transparent, and faculty-driven research enterprise at the University of Oklahoma. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with Faculty Senate leaders to discuss our recommendations and support meaningful next steps.

Sincerely,



Farina King, Ph.D., FRC Chair

OU Faculty Research Council