Bridge Fund Policy

Psychology Department

Purpose of Bridge Funds:

Bridge funds are to be utilized as a short-term, time-limited loan to an individual PI for the purposes of maintaining a scaled-down, but operational lab in between periods of extra-departmental funding. Bridge funds are not intended to serve as an ongoing source of research support.

Eligibility for Bridge Funds:

Faculty who have met the following criteria are eligible for bridge funds...

a) At the time of application, PI must currently have a stable source of funding for their lab (i.e., Federal or Foundation Grant, Start-up money, Internal Award) that will expire within 3 months of applying for bridge funds.

b) At the time of application for bridge funds, the PI must have submitted an application for extramural funding with indirect costs.

c) Faculty who apply for bridge funds must not have other funds available that could otherwise support research (i.e., foundation money, individual indirect return money, start-up money).

d) If a PI has received prior bridge fund support, but has not paid the fund back, he or she will be ineligible for further funding.

Allowable Budget Items

Bridge funds are intended to keep a “bare bones” lab running. They are not intended to keep a lab running at the same level as when it was fully funded through another source of funding. For that reason, only the following costs are allowable.

a) Graduate student salaries can only be paid on an hourly basis so as to avoid tuition charges and benefits

b) Post-doctoral time is allowable

c) Animal costs and subject payment costs should be minimized to cover only those animals/subjects necessary to collect pilot data needed to increase competitiveness in future extramurally funded applications

d) Travel is not allowable unless it is specifically for data collection purposes

e) New equipment costs are not allowable unless equipment is essential for collection of pilot data and cannot be acquired through some other university funding mechanism

Duration of Bridge Support

Bridge support is not to exceed 1 year.
Expectation of Repayment

PI’s enter an agreement with the Department Head that they will begin repayment of the bridge fund after the agreed-upon end date (i.e., not to exceed one year). Repayment will occur in one or more of the following forms.

a) PI’s who successfully obtain an extramurally funded grant will return 100% of their indirect return money to the bridge fund until the debt is repaid.

b) PI’s who obtain foundation (i.e., development or unrestricted donation; not money from a Foundation for a particular purpose) funds during the bridge period will turn over the balance of such funds to the Bridge fund.

c) PI’s who do not successfully obtain an extramurally funded grant within 1 year of the ending of the bridge fund allocation agree to teach extra courses at a rate of 16% of their salary per course, until the balance of the bridge loan is repaid.

Application Process

No later than 1 month before the bridge funds are necessary, the PI should contact the Department Head and provide the following information.

a) Current source of funding and expiration date
b) Statement of how other existing funding sources have been utilized to prevent use of bridge
c) Name of outstanding application for funding, targeted agency, and expected IDC
d) Statement of what activities the bridge funding will be used to support.
e) Budget for requested bridge (not to exceed 1 year)
f) Description of prior uses of bridge funds and results of the funding
g) Plan for repaying the bridge fund

After the Dept. Head receives the material, he or she will convene the AC to review the request and provide a recommendation to the Head. The Head will notify the PI of the decision. The Head will contact the Dean of Liberal Arts to seek a split for the requested bridge support.