

Graduate Council Resolution for Formation of a Campus Wide Committee to Examine Allocation of Indirect Funds

Whereas, there has been a redistribution of indirect funds resulting in a new distribution of 40% to the Chancellor's office, 30% to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and 30% to departments from the prior distribution of 31% to the Office of the Chancellor, 39% to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and 30% to departments,

And, whereas, reducing the indirect cost fund returns by 23% (approximately \$500,000 in FY2012) severely impacts the budget of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, which funds many programs essential for support of the research mission at SIUC such as contractually committed start-up funds, travel funds, seed grants and matching-grant funds, resulting in certain programs such as interdisciplinary seed grants and travel funds being respectively not funded or funded at reduced levels this year,

And, whereas, a significant portion of indirect cost fund returns may be required to meet the demands for improved research space and infrastructure to assure that faculty remain competitive for research funding and to facilitate a collaborative interdisciplinary climate at SIU,

And, whereas, these costs for updated research space and infrastructure need to be balanced with additional campus needs,

And whereas, according to the operating paper for the Graduate School, the Graduate Faculty have "the power to formulate and recommend policy regarding research-related programs",

And, whereas, the Graduate Council, the body representing the Graduate Faculty, have the authority to "establish policy to be followed in allocating available SIUC funds for faculty research projects and to monitor the allocation of such funds",

And, whereas, the prior distribution of indirect funds was recommended by an assigned faculty committee that examined campus-wide uses and needs of indirect funds,

Therefore, be it resolved that the allocation of indirect cost fund returns be examined by a campus-wide committee, including members of the Graduate Council, that will provide input for the need for indirect cost funds and propose a working plan and policy for a mutually effective and agreed-upon distribution of those funds to support research activities on the campus. It is recommended that an assigned campus-wide faculty committee be involved in any future indirect reallocation decisions.

The committee, in conjunction with the research committee of the Graduate Council, will be responsible for researching case studies for peer institutions, aspiration institutions, and Top 100 research institutions for best effective practices, analyzing impacts of current and possible future redistribution models (% reductions and increases) on research productivity to recommend adaptable working models to meet changing needs, seeking alternative funding sources to supplement or defer allocation needs, as well as determining allocation of such funds toward renovating existing or building new physical research capacities.