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Research, Economic Development, & Engagement
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RESEARCH STARTUP PROGRAM

STRATEGIC ROLE AND REQUIREMENTS

In many disciplines, recruiting faculty members with substantial research potential is highly competitive. Often, a startup package can make a significant difference when recruiting faculty with outstanding research potential. For this reason, Research, Economic Development, and Engagement (REDE) oversees a pool of institutional funds to help department chairs and deans assemble competitive faculty startup packages.

Startup packages are comprised of contributions from the department, college, school, center or institute, Graduate School, and REDE. These funds represent a significant investment in the future research productivity of East Carolina University; therefore, deans and department chairs are asked to set appropriate performance benchmarks during employment negotiations with candidates. REDE assesses recent unit and college research productivity, and future startup investment depends on success in meeting appropriate benchmarks. REDE also requires an interim (18-month) progress report from each faculty recipient; the third year of funding is dependent on evidence of satisfactory research productivity.

The associate dean for research (ADR) is closely involved in the startup package negotiation process. A request for faculty startup funds must be accompanied by a research plan which describes the candidate's research program to be initiated and how the initiation of the research program will enable the new faculty member to compete successfully for external funding. The research plan must describe a carefully thought-out research agenda, including enough detail to evaluate the plan, listing possible intramural and/or extramural collaborators and future funding sources. Members of a research advisory panel (who will aid with proposal preparation) should be identified and ideally span departments and colleges/schools. Stand-alone research projects will not be funded. Sufficient detail in the research plan is needed to enable REDE to determine that expenditures will lead to developing a productive research program. The budget should be completed using the REDE Startup Budget Request form (Excel), with a separate budget justification.

Required items for faculty startup packages:

1. Properly executed request form
    a. At least 30% matching is required from the college/school, department, or center/institute.
2. Candidate's resume/CV
    a. Must be complete and comprehensive
3. Detailed research plan and budget justification
4. Itemized budget (Excel template)
    a. Provide reasonable estimates; quotes are not needed
    b. All major items should be listed
5. Cover letter from the chair or ADR to include a brief summary of the candidate's strengths, teaching assignments over the 3-year period, suggestions for an advisory committee, and career/professional development plan.