

## School of Engineering Bridging Funds Program

The goal of the bridge funding program is to provide some continuing research support due to uncertainties in external funding. Bridge awards depend on availability of funds and are made at the discretion of the Dean; up to a maximum of \$60,000 per year to support continuation of PhD student dissertation research.

Application Deadline: Continuous

### *BRIDGE FUNDING PROPOSAL*

Recognizing that some productive investigators are likely to be “unfunded” for time intervals due to uncertainties in external funding, the purpose of bridge funding is:

- To improve success of research faculty by providing some continuing research support
- To encourage use of PhD students in research and provide a mechanism for continued support when funded grants are not renewed
- To make SOE an attractive, research friendly environment for recruitment and retention of students and faculty

### *Eligibility*

Faculty investigators who serve as a Principal Investigator.

The investigator's NSF, NIH (R-series or equivalent), or other external competitive renewal application was not funded.

A new application is not eligible, unless it substitutes for an existing external research grant or represents the equivalent of an “A2” resubmission.

Bridge funding is typically a one-time request but a second request may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Priority will be given to those investigators who lead two or less NSF and/or R-series or equivalent grants.

### *Application Process*

A copy of the external grant application.

The NSF evaluations or NIH study section critiques of the competitive renewal application (or equivalent for other agencies).

A letter from the PI indicating the specific consequences to the research program and laboratory personnel of losing the grant, the termination date of the current grant, plans for resubmission including brief responses to major criticisms of the grant, identification of other sources of salary support and research support, and a plan for use of requested bridge funds.

The letter should include a brief description of the steps that will be taken to increase the competitiveness of the resubmitted application, including (as examples) internal faculty panels to strategize and provide feedback in developing the revised application, commissioning external reviewers for the revised application, grantsmanship training where appropriate, etc.

### *Review Process*

First level of review by the ADR and Department Chair with appropriate input from others on the scientific merit of the application. In particular, reviews external to SOE will be sought (such as CCTS, TIG) if the PI has not already provided such information as part of the application process.

Each proposal, approved and supported by the ADR/Chair, will be submitted to the Dean for final approval.

### *Awards*

The PI's unrestricted accounts are expected to be the first source of bridge funding.

Bridge awards depend on availability of funds and are made at the discretion of the Dean, up to a maximum of \$60,000 per year.

An account specifically titled to include "SOE Bridge Award" should be created and the SOE award transferred into this account.

Bridge Funding progress reports should be submitted every 6 months, for the next 18 months or until extramural funding commences.

Yearly review of recipients will be performed to make a recommendation for further funding in need for PhD student support. Awards are unlikely to be continued beyond two years total funding.

### *Upon Receipt of External Funding*

When external funding proposals are successful during the lifetime of the Bridge award a review will be held to determine what fraction of Bridge funding should be returned to the School. The general principle is that when external funds have become available, these should be used to support the PhD student dissertation research.

For questions related to the Bridge Award process, please email ADR Mark Banaszak Holl (mmbanasz@uab.edu).