RESEARCH INCENTIVE AWARDS (RIA) PROGRAM

Program Overview

The UCF Research Incentive Awards (RIA) program supports outstanding research, scholarly, and creative activity that advances the body of knowledge in a particular field, including interdisciplinary research and collaborations. This award recognizes faculty contributions to UCF’s key goal of achieving international prominence in research and creative activities.

Each year the university awards up to 20 new RIA awards. These awards are equally apportioned among the colleges and research Centers & Institutes (C&I). Academic Affairs provides the funding for these awards.

Faculty Eligibility

Applicants must be full-time faculty in tenured or tenure-earning positions or full-time faculty in the C&Is who have served as principal investigators on contracts and grants awarded to UCF by an outside sponsor. Continuous service since August 8, 2012, the start of the 2012-13 academic year is required.

No faculty member may be awarded a RIA more than once every five years.

Tenured and tenure-earning C&I faculty members must apply for the awards in the colleges where their tenure resides.

Funding of Awards

Regardless of the contract length (9-months or 12-months), award recipients shall receive a one-time award of $5,000 as soon as practicable, and a $5,000 increase to their salary effective at the beginning of the succeeding academic year.

Recycled Awards

If a Research Incentive Award recipient of a college, or institute or center, leaves university employment, their award will remain within the college, or revert to the vice president for research (C&I awards only) for “recycling.” These recycled awards will become additional UCF Research Incentive Awards for the following academic year for that college.
RIA Committee

To provide equal representation, the tenured faculty members in each department will elect a tenured faculty representative to serve on the RIA college committee. Colleges with fewer than five (5) departments (or no departments at all) shall elect one (1) tenured faculty member from each department then conduct a college wide election for the additional members to compose a five (5) person committee.

C&I RIA committee – full-time faculty in the following tenure-granting units shall elect a representative to serve on the C&I RIA committee: FSEC, IST, & Nanotechnology Center. A C&I RIA committee election for two additional members shall occur to form a five (5) person committee.

RIA applicants are ineligible to serve on committees. To the extent possible, committee members, should have won a RIA within the last three years.

Criteria

Criteria for evaluating applications will include the following major categories as appropriate for each discipline:

- Value or impact of research and creative efforts both within the discipline and to society;
- Recognition of research and creative efforts by the individual's peers in the same or related disciplines;
- Publication and presentation of research and creative efforts;
- External grant and contract support for the research and creative efforts appropriate to the applicant's discipline;
- All peer review committees should take into consideration the fraction of time assigned (FTE) for research for all applicants.

The provost or provost designee will give the final approval for award recipients. Following provost approval each college, institute, and center will notify all nominees of the results, with an explanation of the unit's reasons for its recommendations.