

Date: November 16, 2009

**Graduate Student Recruitment Initiative:
Faculty Research Incentive through Graduate Student Research Assistantships
(aka “Research Assistantship Initiative”)**

Introduction – The Offices of Research and Sponsored Programs and Graduate Studies are pleased to announce a graduate student support initiative: funds to support graduate student research assistantships. These annual awards provide both graduate student support, through research assistantships, and seed money for new research endeavors for faculty members. Graduate faculty members are invited to apply for research assistantship awards (not to exceed \$10,000 for one academic year period) to be offered to new, highly qualified graduate students. In addition, the awards are designed to facilitate new faculty research projects for which extramural funding has yet to be obtained.

Programmatic Details – ORSP will provide 5 - \$5000 awards through a peer-review proposal competition. Colleges are required to provide a 1:1 match, bringing the total of each award to \$10,000 (\$50,000 for all 5 awards). Each \$10,000 award is to support a graduate student research assistantship through a stipend for a 9 – 12 month period. Funds can only be used to support student salaries. The award-receiving student must be conducting research that supports the faculty project. The supervising faculty member and student are encouraged to develop a portion of the project or some ancillary project as the student’s graduate research thesis or capstone scholarly experience.

The expectation is that with a research assistantship the faculty member will be provided with the resources (i.e., time) to better develop a competitive extramural research proposal in the subsequent year. Faculty members, therefore, are freed to invest more time to conduct research while graduate programs are provided with resources to improve quality through recruitment of stronger students. These proposals are also available to collaborative faculty member teams. Finally, research projects that concern FGCU effectiveness are welcome. However, a regular faculty member, rather than a non-faculty staff member, must be the submitting principal investigator.

Application & Proposal Process

- Only members of FGCU Graduate Faculty are eligible for this award.
- Faculty members are required to submit a proposal to the Office of Graduate Studies. The main body of the proposal must be limited to 5 double-spaced pages, with a minimum 10-point font. Proposals will be due on **January 8, 2010**.
- The Dean of your College must submit a statement outlining its willingness to support the match dollars should the award be made.
- More than one award may be made to each College, though the intention is to fund all Colleges with at least one award if high-quality proposals are submitted.
- See the attached program guidelines for details (or contact M. Savarese for those guidelines). Please share this with your faculty. Contact Michael Savarese (msavares@fgcu.edu; 590-7165) for additional information.