

The Faculty Senate Research Committee

Final Report

Academic Year 2023-2024

Co-Chairs: Joshua Roundy (CEAE), Celka Straughn (Spencer Museum of Art)

Members: Angela Rathmel (Libraries), Rick Dobrowsky (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Mike Blum (Geology), Randall Fuller (English), Laura Mielke (History, Interim Chair), Mugur Geana (Journalism & Mass Communications), Marcy Lascano (Philosophy), Linda Stone-Ferrier (History of Art), Jeffrey Xu (Aerospace Engineering), Neal Kingston (Educational Psychology)

Ex-Officio: Simon Atkinson & Belinda Sturm (Vice Chancellor for Research & Interim Vice Chancellor for Research), Candan Tamerler Behar (Associate Vice Chancellor Research)

Overview

During the academic year 2023-24, the Faculty Senate Research Committee primarily focused on our charge to monitor the administration of the General Research Fund (GRF) and make recommendations, as needed, to ensure its effectiveness and appropriate utilization. This work continued that of the previous year, following up on the proposed recommendations submitted to the FacEx Committee in October 2022 and a subsequent faculty survey sent May 1, 2023, which indicated that faculty were in favor of modifying the current GRF allocation in a more equitable and transparent form. In the fall, the Research Committee analyzed the survey results and developed a new recommendation using the previous one as a starting point. The updated recommendation was presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on February 20, 2024. The Faculty Senate discussed the recommendation at the February 22 meeting. The Faculty Senate discussed it again at the April 4 meeting, and a motion to vote on the recommendation was raised. The motion to accept the recommendation was passed at the April 4 meeting. A letter was emailed to all faculty on April 17 notifying faculty of the GRF adjustment and asking for comments.

Summary of Work

The following is a concise list of all meetings, events, and significant dates that involved the Faculty Senate Research committee during the 2023-24 academic year.

October 20, 2023: FSRC meeting. See Appendix 1 for summary slides from the meeting.

Discussed the committee charges and focused discussion on the GRF allocation and the work accomplished by previous committees. Reviewed recommendations developed during 2022-2023 academic year, the faculty survey, and discussed possibilities and strategies for new recommendations.

November 10, 2023: FSRC meeting. See Appendix 2 for summary document from the meeting.

Joshua Roundy presented survey results grouped by theme and talking points for committee discussion, particularly focusing on comments shared in the survey.

January 29, 2024: FSRC meeting. See Appendix 3 for summary slides from the meeting.

Joshua Roundy presented updated allocation model using current faculty data provided by KUCR. Committee discussion included questions of who counts as research faculty, costs of research in different units, concerns of overfunding in a unit and equitable funding as well as considerations of joint appointments, possibilities of research faculty who may not have access to GRF, and graduate students. Idea emerged to align CLAS units in GRF allocation similar to other Schools. Prepared for committee vote.

February 5, 2024: Josh and Marcy meeting CLAS AD meeting

Joshua Roundy and Marcy Lascano met with Maria Orive and Nick Syrett to discuss a single CLAS unit allocation instead of by various CLAS units. This proposal was accepted.

February 5-7, 2024: FSRC vote of use of PI data.

Committee voted in favor of using the eligible PI data to create a new allocation for the GRF. Majority agreed (10 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain). This vote allowed the Committee to move forward with a new recommendation for the GRF no longer constrained by the historical formula.

February 20, 2024: FacEx meeting. See Appendix 4 for slides.

Joshua Roundy and Celka Straughn met with the FacEx committee and presented the revised GRF recommendation. Overall FacEx appreciated the historical background, focus on developing a more equitable approach to the GRF allocations, and overall indication that a solid proposal with good advantages. One question related to changes from last year's recommendation; the revised proposal includes the School of Professional Studies, categorizing CLAS as a single unit, and updates with most current number of PIs. Another question was raised regarding better ways to collect data to assess the usefulness of the GRF could be considered for next year's FSRC.

The Research Committee's proposed recommendation to change the GRF are:

- Reallocate the GRF funds based on the size of the unit, with size being calculated as the number of individuals in each unit with PI status (Note: PI status does not consider if an individual has been, or is currently, a PI on a grant, but only considers if their appointment makes them eligible to be a PI).
- Add the School of Professional Studies to the allocation.
- Combine all CLAS allocations into one allocation as is done with the other Schools.
- Transition this change over a three-year period during the next three-year review cycle, with the following allocation:
 - Year 1: 50% old allocation; 50% new allocation
 - Year 2: 25% old allocation; 75% new allocation
 - Year 3: 100% new allocation

February 22, 2024: Faculty Senate Meeting. See Appendix 4 for slides.

Joshua Roundy and Celka Straughn presented the GRF recommendation to the Faculty Senate for their discussion. General support for the proposal. Discussion and questions included the maintenance of unit autonomy, clarity regarding PI eligibility, and the breakdown of CLAS units.

April 4, 2024: Faculty Senate Meeting.

Joshua Roundy attended the Faculty Senate meeting to respond to any questions for a further discussion of the GRF recommendation. A motion to vote on the recommendation was raised. The motion to accept the recommendation was passed.

April 17, 2024: Email sent to KU Lawrence and Edwards Faculty.

An email was sent by Victor Gonzalez, Faculty Senate President, Joshua Roundy and Celka Straughn to all faculty regarding the Research Committee's revised recommendations and Faculty Senate acceptance.

Recommendations

Based on the work completed this year, the committee has the following recommendations to be considered for next year.

Implementation of revised GRF Allocation: Work with Faculty Senate following any faculty comment, and the further processes toward adoption of the new GRF allocation. Work with KUCR to begin transition of new GRF allocation for the next year's allocation.

Annual monitoring of GRF: Monitor the administration of the General Research Fund (GRF) **annually** and make recommendations to ensure its effectiveness and appropriate utilization.

Three-year Review of GRF: For the three-year review, consider data and data collection methods that will be useful with the new GRF allocation.

Appendix 1: Slides from the October 20, 2023 - Committee Meeting Slides



1

Faculty Senate Research Committee

This committee monitors and communicates with administration personnel and governance bodies concerning support for and policies concerning faculty research activities, including the allocation of GRF funds, and other issues affecting the research environment at KU.

Committee Members

Member	Department	Role	Voting	Year
John Reynolds	Administrative	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	Department of Biology	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023
John Reynolds	College	Chair	Yes	2023

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Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Schedule for the Fall semester
 - Oct 20, 3:00 – 4:00pm, Zoom
 - Nov 10, 3:00 – 4:00pm
 - Dec 1, 3:00 – 4:00pm
- Teams site for document sharing
- Review & discuss charges:
 - Standing charges
 - Specific charges
- General Research Fund
 - Overview and history
 - Previous committee considerations and activities
 - Faculty survey
- Where we are now and possible next steps

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The Committee's Charge for 2023-2024

FF2023 standing charges:

- Monitor the administration of the General Research Fund (GRF) and make recommendations, as needed, to ensure for effectiveness and appropriate allocation.
- The need for new charges will be due by the end of 2023. For 3-year refreshers, note that the process must be completed and sent to Research no later than October 31, 2023 for FF2024, 2024 and 2025.
- The GRF should pay particular attention to the earliest-allowable eligibility requirements for the competition (open entries to equal applications from research at Lawrence and faculty who work at least one other entity except applications from Lawrence) in determining the degree to which entities are making effective use of the GRF.

FF2023 specific charges:

- Analyze and provide a timely report from faculty survey regarding GRF used May 1, 2023. The survey is designed to provide the faculty with the ability to compare GRF usage with the question, "Is there a charge from the faculty to change the current GRF allocation model?" The committee should analyze the results and report recommendations based on the data. If the faculty are open to changing the GRF, what is recommended that the committee develop a new recommendation and that the charges be implemented as a starting point. The survey includes the standing charge of the Faculty Senate Research Committee to include the use of the GRF and make recommendations for its allocation.
- Explore ways to assess the effects on KU research and scholarship on budget cuts and budget freezes.
- The committee should discuss the following issues and make recommendations:
 - Follow up on recommendations that the School of Professional Studies can be included in the GRF distribution for FF23.
 - The amount of funding that KU allocates to the GRF is decreasing, which is concerning, given the importance of high-quality research. In addition, the budget has collapsed from year to year. Review a comparison of KU research-related funding (including grants, salaries, research travel, and other indirect funding opportunities) to Lawrence's total funding to see constraints.
 - Explore how the reduction of tenure track faculty roles is impacting overall KU faculty productivity.
 - Investigate the process by which KU collects funding from KU Endowment to support the current charges of faculty.

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General Research Fund (GRF)

<https://research.ku.edu/general-research-fund>

The General Research Fund is a competitive award program that provides funding for the advancement of the university's research program. The Office of Research provides funds to each school or college and assists in the administration of these funds.

The Vice Chancellor for Research has delegated to each entity the responsibility for awarding these funds. Each entity determines proposal criteria and has its own review committee, application process and submission deadline.

Each faculty member on the Lawrence campus is eligible to submit one GRF proposal to their school or college as the principal investigator. Awards are based on the merit of the proposal, which includes the scholarly excellence of the proposal and its benefit to the university and to the individual researcher.

Each entity may add additional proposal criteria as they deem appropriate. All funds are awarded for a one-year period (July 1 to June 30) and may be used for summer salary, student or GRF salary, supplies and travel. The State of Kansas does not allow payment of tuition with these funds.

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GRF Allocation History

- Prior to 1994, GRF awards were determined at the University level.
- In 1994 the distribution of GRF funds was decentralized and individual units were allocated a share of the GRF and allowed to use the funds to support research in their respective units with oversight from the Faculty Senate Research Committee.
- The original GRF allocation was based on the GRF awards from the previous year and has remained unchanged since the original decentralization of the GRF in 1994.
- Every 3-years each unit submits a report on how they used the GRF which is reviewed by the Faculty Research Committee.

6

The Committee Recommended Changing the GRF Allocation

As a committee, we by majority agree (12 yes; 1 no) that there is no basis for staying with the historical formula. We ground our recommendation primarily in the argument that there has been change across the University in the past three decades, and the current allocation model does not reflect this change.

Current Allocation

Allocation Relative to Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty (as reported from FY19-FY21 Review)

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How should the GRF be allocated?

Requirements

- The allocation of the funds should be completely transparent.
- Allocations should not be frozen at in time and should evolve with the University (Easily updated on a regular cycle)
- The change should not be arbitrary (needs to be based on advancement of the university's research program)

The committee evaluated and discussed many different metrics for allocation

Metric	Description
TEF	Total Eligible Faculty
TTF	Total Tenure-Track Faculty
NPS	Number of NSF Proposals Submitted
FWRP	Faculty Without External Funding
NPP	Number of NSF Proposals Funded
TSC	Total GRF Accomplishments
TFC	Total Relative Accomplishments (TSC/NPP)
TNR	Total Relative Need (NPP/TTF)
CCFAP	Use TFC to create two-tiered system
TFC(1) / TNR(1)	Ratio of Accomplishments and Needs

The committee had mixed opinions on using GRF related outcomes and need metrics. However, the majority of the committee felt such formulas would spur unhealthy competition between the units and would be fundamentally unfair and unproductive. Ultimately the committee agreed that using the size of a unit, compared to other strategies, reduces the chances of unintended consequences and provides a needed first step towards a fair allocation of GRF funds.

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Recommendation for the GRF Allocation

The committee makes the following recommendations, which was supported by a majority vote (11 yes; 1 no; 1 abstention).

- Reallocate the GRF funds based on the size of the unit, with the being indicated by number of individuals in each unit with PI status (that is, those who are eligible to be a PI).
- Note: PI status does not consider if an individual has been, or is currently, a PI on a grant, but only considers if their appointment makes them eligible to be a PI.

Old Allocation **New Allocation**

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Challenges with the Change

The committee acknowledges the challenge of change, especially given the long lasting tradition and that some units will be receiving a decrease in funds.

Transition this change over a three-year period before the next three-year review cycle, with the following allocation:

- Year 1: 50% old allocation, 50% new allocation
- Year 2: 25% old allocation, 75% new allocation
- Year 3: 100% new allocation

Other Challenges

- Challenge of change and the impact on on unfunded research
- Equality vs Equity (What is the best metric of this?)

	Old		Transition		New	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Jackman & Underwood	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
East House	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
School of the Arts	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Behavioral Science	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Biochemistry	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Life Science	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Physical Science	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Social Science	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
School of Education	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Engineering	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Arts and Letters	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Law	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
Music	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
Pharmacy	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
Health Professions	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00
University Libraries	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Total Check	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00

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Final Thoughts

Ultimately the committee agreed that using the size of a unit, compared to other strategies, reduces the chances of unintended consequences and provides a needed first step towards a fair allocation of GRF funds.

Old strategy (based on PI status)

The committee will continue to monitor the reports from the units each year and assess this impact over time.

The recommendation is the result of the work of many past iterations of this committee. Thank you for your efforts!

We appreciate your feedback. [Feedback form](#)

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FacEX Decided not to bring it to the senate for a vote

They did not want to bring it up as they felt there was too much opposition. Instead they wanted to administer a survey to see if faculty wanted a change.

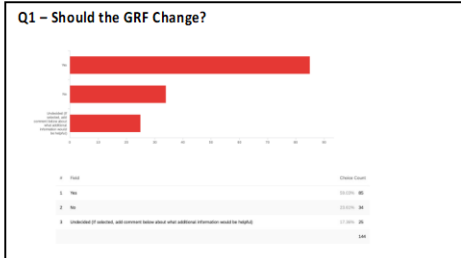
3 - Question Survey we're out in May 2023

Q1 Under the current GRF system each unit gets a portion of the overall GRF budget and administrative assets are determined by the unit. The Faculty Senate Research Committee reviews the unit's use of GRF. Transition to a 5-year cycle to reduce the faculty senate's administrative burden is a goal of current senate GRF allocation. How do you feel about the current GRF system? (This question is optional and will not be included in the final report.)

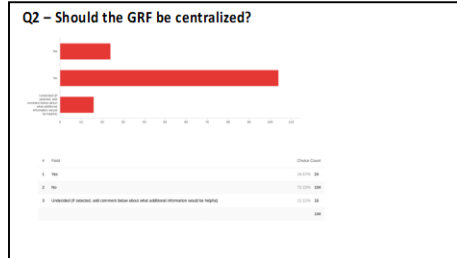
Q2 Another way to apply the GRF would be to create a tiered GRF and have the Office of Research administer a yearly competition open to all research units, with proposals from the Faculty Senate Research Committee. Do you believe a tiered GRF would be a more equitable and fair way to use the GRF?

Q3 Do you have any other potential ideas for equitable and fairly allocating and administering the GRF?

12



13



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Q3 – Do you have any ideas?

These responses should be placed in the area of comments to better help track the responses to the question. The GRF is a committee of faculty and staff who are responsible for the GRF. The GRF is a committee of faculty and staff who are responsible for the GRF. The GRF is a committee of faculty and staff who are responsible for the GRF.

Unit	Count	Percentage
GRF	1	0.01
Research	1	0.01
Faculty	1	0.01
Number of research faculty	1	0.01
Number of funding	1	0.01
Number of research faculty	1	0.01
Number of funding	1	0.01
Number of research faculty	1	0.01
Number of funding	1	0.01
Number of research faculty	1	0.01
Number of funding	1	0.01

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Discussion

- What's next, do we submit another recommendation for the GRF?
- Anything from the COACHE survey that could be useful (is this something Suzanne could perhaps assist with?)
- Building Faculty Senate buy-in and working with them to mutually develop a plan, and also with (assoc) deans and chairs (think you suggested each member connecting with their departments)
- Examples from other institutions for perspective and possible models – what do they have and how do they administer their funds?

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Appendix 2: Summary from the November 10, 2023 – Document of Survey Results

Groupings of Responses to Questions 1

Allocation should be based on departments with fewer opportunities for external funding.

Availability of other sources of support should be taken into account in this allocation, and I do not know what the typical grant or summer salary is across these fields. GRF funds should support faculty with lower access to other funds.

what other grant funding avenues does each research unit have available? Qualitatively, how much difference does GRF funding make for each research unit? (I suspect it has more impact in some research units than in others.)

Read one way, the graph suggests reallocation simply according to faculty and dollars. But type of unit isn't neutral in this equation. Different units have vastly different access to research funding, especially external research dollars. If the GRF is meant to support research, thought (not representable in a graph) to what the GRF means to different units needs to be assessed.

The degree to which each area of study is dependent upon the GRF for research funds should be a major factor. Some departments have access to departmental, foundation, or department endowment funds that other departments do not. This should be a factor.

Faculty versus allocation is one important measure. But there are also other considerations, such as the differences between disciplines and the availability (or lack of) of outside resources.

Do the units where research faculty significantly outstrip GRF allocation have alternate sources of research funding?
It might be helpful to know which units are dependent on GRF for research funding compared to other sources.

Allocations should be based on Merit.

It should be merited-based

The allocation should change to reflect the faculty research productivity

I think it's not reasonable that the allocation hasn't changed in 30 years. Change is good and important. That said, the implication in the figure is that the allocation should be based on # of faculty. This misses variation in the actual costs associated with the research effort (science research will be more expensive). And it misses the - I'm assuming - much greater potential for GRF funds going to science faculty to help lead to external awards. SO in terms of information: What is the return on investment for the awards that go to different units? What are faculty actually spending the money they receive on? Pilot projects that could lead to external grants?

Data collection that would put the final touches to an ongoing project? I think this is important to assess the value of the awards.

Simply looking at number of faculty and GRF allocations is not enough to determine if how funds should be re-allocated. A better understanding of historic research expenditures per faculty member for each unit and how effective units historically have been in terms of using GRF funds. The two questions I would like to somehow answer would be: 1) What is the impact of the GRF funding on a particular unit in terms of faculty success? (\$5k could be career-changing for someone in a field where external funds are not common and/or are not a large component of evaluation, while it would be less impactful for someone who consistently is expending hundreds of thousands of dollars annually); and 2) Have the units receiving the GRF funds been good stewards of those funds? (Have the funds been effectively used to support new faculty, to allow for flexibility in new endeavors, etc., or have they simply been used as a crutch to eliminate the need to pursue any other source of resources?).

Number of faculty should not be the only determining factor of GRF funding. Therefore I cannot make any conclusion based on the data given. Other things to consider are number of students (undergraduate and graduate), return on investment of giving GRF funds to those departments, goals of the units and if those align with GRF, etc.

I do think reallocation is probably in order, but using number of faculty per unit as the metric for guiding reallocation is misguided. Would recommend using some other metric of (a) external funding productivity, (b) productivity, or (c) societal impact

Allocation should be based on cost to do research

I think both faculty number and average research expenditures per faculty in that unit should be considered in allocating the funds.

The amount should be proportional to the number of faculty who do research and the average cost of that research.

It would be helpful to know the average cost of a research project from each of these units. For example, the cost for a research project in the humanities may be different than for one in the physical sciences, life sciences, or engineering. Additionally, I would like to know who counts as "research faculty."

the amounts needed for different types of research may not be the same across the board. However, it is clear that some tweaking needs to happen

I'd like to know more about how many faculty in these units use and/or apply for GRF funding. Faculty in certain disciplines have different GRF needs.

Allocation should be based on how many apply for GRF.

What seems more important than how many research faculty are IN a unit is how many are applying - if faculty in a unit aren't applying for the funds, I'm not sure we should assume a change is warranted. How competitive the grants are within the units - and whether applicants are regularly rejected in some units due to inadequate funds seems the more useful question if the goal is to ensure that the greatest number of active researchers seeking funds receive them across the entire university.

Allocation should be based on Junior Faculty

The allocation should be reviewed, taking into consideration KLU's goals and other factors. It might be appropriate to consider not only faculty lines, but also the number of graduate students supported by the unit. What are the goals of the GRF - if seed funding, perhaps a three-year running average of proposals supported by GRF-generated data could be factored in. If support of junior faculty is a goal, perhaps the allocation should factor in only junior faculty members.

Allocation should be based on number of faculty

Match of the funding allocated and the number of faculty members among all units.

Allocation should consider the disproportionate allocation to Life Science

The disproportionate funding in life sciences needs explaining.
Assuming life sciences uses other funding, rather than "going without" GRF, but that's not on the graph.

Allocation should be based on students

Number of graduate students in each program. External funding of each program.

Allocation should be based on number of people funded

What matters is not the dollar amounts of the awards, but the number of people funded.

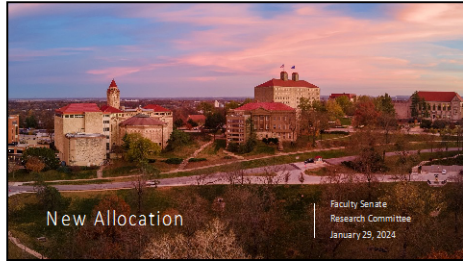
Allocation needs to consider units that don't current receive an allocation

There are units that do not qualify for GRF (probably because they are set up as programs rather than departments). There are some faculty with joint appointments in one or more of these units that do not then have access to GRF funds. That is inequitable.

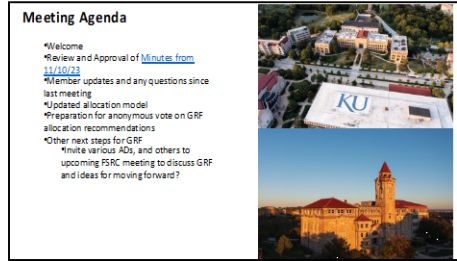
Allocation should consider how research faculty fluctuates over time

I would like to know how "Research Faculty" are determined for this metric. Faculty Research takes different forms in different fields (esp. the Arts), but also headcount can fluctuate in smaller units (Arts, Journalism, Social Welfare, etc) so is the metric based on a snapshot, 3 year average, or what?
I'd like to see this data over time. Have some departments recently over-hired, so that they've outgrown their research funding? Have others responsibly opted not to hire, delayed hiring, or rejected new budget lines for employment, in order to ensure a roomy research budget for the unit? Longitudinal data would reveal situations such as these. In the event a unit has planned to leave itself a roomier research funding budget, it hardly seems fair to penalize it for responsible budgetary strategy. On the other hand, in the event a unit has over-hired without regard for its limited research funding, it hardly seems fair to appropriate research funding from other departments in order to cover its lack of budgetary foresight. Another report that would shed some light on this one is how much available research funding per unit is from the past fiscal year. I'd like to know if some units have amassed research funding year-over-year, or if there's some other way that they've managed to accrue assets as a division. Finally, one other piece of data that would be relevant, if we had it, is some sort of national average of per-capita research expenditures by discipline or division. How do we know if we are overfunding research in one division and underfunding it in another if we don't compare to some sort of standard that suggests the real cost of doing research within each discipline?

Appendix 3: Slides from the January 29, 2024 Committee Meeting Slides



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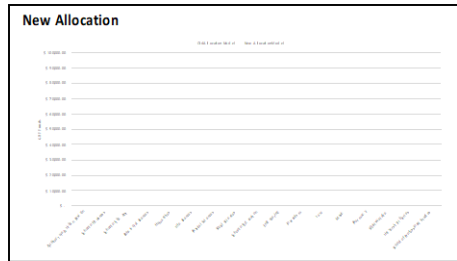
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PI Data Across Units

Unit	Units	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
AB	Architecture & Urban Design	40	40	1			
BE	School of Business	40	40	1			
CA	School of the Arts	40	41	-1			
CB	Behavioral Science	71	71	1			
CD	Communications	19	19	-18			
CE	Life Sciences	40	40	-18			
CF	Physical Sciences	10	10	-15			
CG	College of Education	10	10	1			
CH	School of Journalism	70	70	1			
CI	Engineering	10	10	1			
CJ	Math	20	20	1			
CK	Law	27	28	1			
CL	Media	40	40	1			
CM	Pharmacy	30	30	-1			
CN	Geography	30	30	-1			
CO	University Outreach	40	40	1			
CP	School of Professional Studies	10	10	1			
GRAND TOTAL		1010	1010	-18			

What to do with administrators and other unclassified groups?

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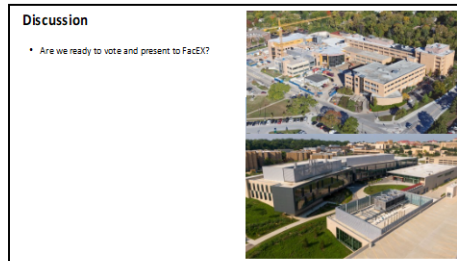


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New Allocation

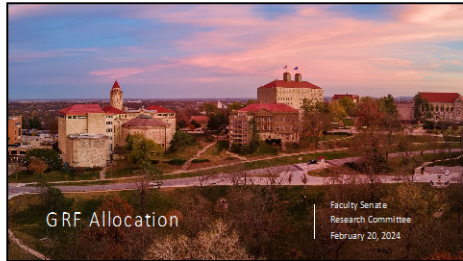
Entity	Entity Code	Old Allocation	New Allocation	Net Change
AB	Architecture & Urban Design	\$ 14,250,000	\$ 21,750,000	\$ 7,500,000
BE	School of Business	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CA	School of the Arts	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CB	Behavioral Science	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 0
CD	Communications	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 0
CE	Life Sciences	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 0
CF	Physical Sciences	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CG	College of Education	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CH	School of Journalism	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 0
CI	Engineering	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CJ	Math	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 0
CK	Law	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CL	Media	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CM	Pharmacy	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CN	Geography	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CO	University Outreach	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
CP	School of Professional Studies	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 200,000,000	\$ 200,000,000	\$ 0

5



6

Appendix 5: Slides from February 20, 2024 Final GRF Recommendation to FacEx



1

Faculty Senate Research Committee

This committee monitors and communicates with administration personnel and governance bodies concerning support for and policies concerning faculty research activities, including the allocation of GRF funds, and other issues affecting the research environment at KU.

Committee Members

Member	Department	Role	Year	Last Met
John Beardsley	Psychology	Chair	2023	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2022	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2021	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2020	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2019	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2018	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2017	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2016	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2015	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2014	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2013	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2012	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2011	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2010	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	2009	2023
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John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1972	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1971	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1970	2023
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John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1967	2023
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John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1924	2023
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John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1922	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1921	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1920	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1919	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1918	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1917	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1916	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1915	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1914	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1913	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1912	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1911	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1910	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1909	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1908	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1907	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1906	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1905	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1904	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1903	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1902	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1901	2023
John Beardsley	Psychology	Member	1900	2023

2

General Research Fund (GRF)

www.lawrence.edu/general-research-fund

The General Research Fund is a competitive award program that provides funding for the advancement of the university's research program. The Office of Research provides funds to each school or college and assists in the administration of these funds.

The Vice Chancellor for Research has delegated to each entity the responsibility for awarding these funds. Each entity determines proposal criteria and has to own a review committee, application process and submission deadline.

Each faculty member on the Lawrence campus is eligible to submit one GRF proposal to their school or college as the principal investigator. Awards are based on the merit of the proposal, which includes the scholarly excellence of the proposal and its benefit to the university and to the individual researcher.

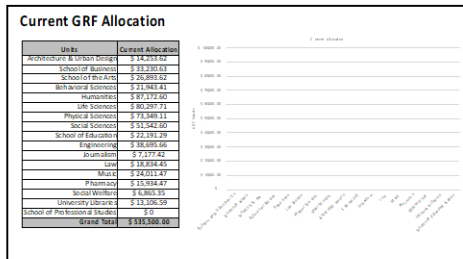
Each entity may add additional proposal criteria as they deem appropriate. All funds are awarded for a one-year period (July 1 to June 30) and may be used for summer salary, student or GWA salary, supplies and travel. The State of Kansas does not allow payment of tuition with these funds.

3

GRF Allocation History

- Prior to 1994, GRF awards were determined at the University level.
- In 1994 the distribution of GRF funds was decentralized and individual units were allocated a share of the GRF and allowed to use the funds to support research in their respective unit with oversight from the Faculty Senate Research Committee.
- The original GRF allocation was based on the GRF awards from the previous year and has remained unchanged since the original decentralization of the GRF in 1994.
- Every 3 years each unit submits a report on how they used the GRF which is reviewed by the Faculty Research Committee.

4



5

Current Challenges with the GRF

- Current allocation of the GRF is \$535,500; this has decreased over time (\$722 - \$594,564).
- The allocations to individual units as a percentage of the total has basically not changed in 30 years (minor change when School of Social Welfare was added).
 - The current model has no basis and does not allow for change.
 - This is problematic as the University has changed and will continue to change.
 - Some units (Professional Studies) do not get an allocation.

6

The Committee tried to change the allocation last year (spring 2023)

After bringing our recommendation to FacEX, the Committee was asked to administer a survey to see if faculty wanted a change to the GRF Allocation.

3 - Question Survey went out in May 2023

Q1 - About the current GRF, how much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The Faculty Senate Research Committee reviewed the current GRF budget in a 2022 report to review the budget and recommendations. Below is a graph of responses to the question: How much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The current allocation (what you see on the allocation in 2023) is the bar on the right. The bar on the left is the current allocation based on the Faculty Senate Research Committee before the GRF was reauthorized. Do you think the GRF allocation should be up or down?

Q2 - How much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The current allocation (what you see on the allocation in 2023) is the bar on the right. The bar on the left is the current allocation based on the Faculty Senate Research Committee before the GRF was reauthorized. Do you think the GRF allocation should be up or down?

Q3 - Do you have any other potential ideas for allocating and awarding the GRF?

7

Q1 - Should the GRF Change?

Survey Results included 144 responses (~12%)

Q1 - About the current GRF, how much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The Faculty Senate Research Committee reviewed the current GRF budget in a 2022 report to review the budget and recommendations. Below is a graph of responses to the question: How much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The current allocation (what you see on the allocation in 2023) is the bar on the right. The bar on the left is the current allocation based on the Faculty Senate Research Committee before the GRF was reauthorized. Do you think the GRF allocation should be up or down?

Q2 - How much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The current allocation (what you see on the allocation in 2023) is the bar on the right. The bar on the left is the current allocation based on the Faculty Senate Research Committee before the GRF was reauthorized. Do you think the GRF allocation should be up or down?

Q3 - Do you have any other potential ideas for allocating and awarding the GRF?

8

Q2 - Should the GRF be centralized?

Survey Results included 144 responses (~12%)

Q2 - How much do you agree or disagree with the current GRF budget, in your opinion is it a reasonable amount for the unit. The current allocation (what you see on the allocation in 2023) is the bar on the right. The bar on the left is the current allocation based on the Faculty Senate Research Committee before the GRF was reauthorized. Do you think the GRF allocation should be up or down?

Q3 - Do you have any other potential ideas for allocating and awarding the GRF?

9

Q3 - Potential Ideas?

Q3 - Do you have any other potential ideas for allocating and awarding the GRF?

The ideas were broad but can be generally lumped into four categories.

	Allocate Based on Return on Investment	Allocate Based on Cost to do Research	Allocate Based on Need	Allocate Based on Size
Strength	Prioritizes increasing research dollars to the University	Prioritizes units with high cost of doing research	Prioritizes units with fewer opportunities for external funding	Treats all research across campus equal
Weakness	Those units that do not have as many opportunities for federal funding will be disadvantaged	The GRF is not that much money and would be greatly over allocated to units with higher cost of research	Does little to grow the research enterprise across the University	Treats all research across campus equal
Potential Metric	Number of external proposals submitted from GRF Research	Average GRF award amount	GRF Proposals Submitted Relative to Eligible Faculty	Number PI Eligible researchers in the unit

10

How should the GRF be allocated moving forward?

Requirements

- The allocation of the funds should be completely transparent.
- Allocations should not be frozen at in time and should evolve with the University (easily updated on a regular cycle)
- The change should not be arbitrary (needs to be based on advancement of the university's research program)

The committee evaluated and discussed many different metrics for allocation

The committee has a wide range of opinions on using GRF related outcomes and need metrics. However, the majority of the committee felt such formulas would spur unhealthy competition between the units and would be fundamentally unfair and unproductive. Ultimately the committee agreed that using the size of a unit, compared to other colleges, reduces the chances of unintended consequences and provides a needed first step towards a fair allocation of GRF funds.

11

The Committee Recommends Changing the GRF Allocation

As a committee, we by majority agree (10 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain) that there is no basis for staying with the historical formula. We ground our recommendation primarily in the argument that there has been change across the University in the past three decades, and the current allocation model does not reflect the change. The committee recommends:

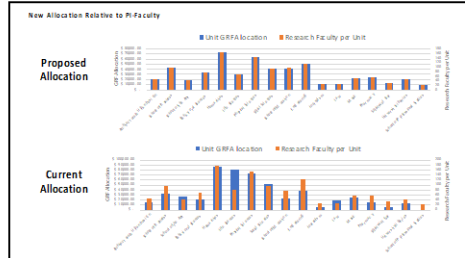
- Reallocate the GRF funds based on the size of the unit, with size being calculated as the number of individuals in each unit with PI status.
- Add the School of Professional Studies to the allocation.
- Combine all CAS allocations into one allocation.

Note: PI status does not consider if an individual has been, or is currently, a PI on a grant, but only considers if the opportunity has been eligible to be a PI.

College	Current Allocation	Proposed Allocation
College of Arts and Sciences	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Business	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Education	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Health and Human Services	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Life Sciences	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Public Health	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Theology	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Veterinary Medicine	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Writing and Communications	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Arts and Sciences	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Business	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Education	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Health and Human Services	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Life Sciences	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Public Health	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Theology	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Veterinary Medicine	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
College of Writing and Communications	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Total	\$16,000,000	\$16,000,000

Works out to be about \$444 per faculty

12



19