

## **2017 SCICU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT/FACULTY RESEARCH PROGRAM**

### **(SUGGESTIONS PROVIDED BY THE 2016 RESEARCH EVALUATION TEAM)**

#### **DO:**

1. Do have students write their own proposals. The evaluators need to hear the student's voice when reviewing the proposals. The evaluators will turn down any proposal that seems to be mostly written by the professor.
2. Do have student proposals include a meaningful/fairly objective means of measurement/analysis. In the Social Sciences and the Humanities, we cannot fund proposals that sound like: "I will tell you how I feel - about how I think they feel." Your means of measurement/analysis should go well beyond this to be worthy of SCICU research dollars. If a student does not use well-known and/or well-structured psychometric instruments, then at least have checklists and grids from well-developed bibliographies. That helps a lot.
3. Do feel free to submit research proposals supporting creative activity -- e.g. -- we can and will fund objective research supporting the writing of a novel or play, or the painting of a picture, or the composition music. Since the funds are directed to research, we cannot fund the production of the novel, the picture, or the musical composition itself. For example, we can't and will not pay you to write a novel.
4. Do obtain all necessary IRB and/or Principal/Superintendent permissions ahead of time, or our funds will be contingent upon you getting them. We cannot fund human subjects and/or school children research that does not have all necessary, legal permissions.
5. Do have specific question(s) driving your research proposal.
6. Do have specific means to measure and analyze the data. In the humanities, this may be less straightforward but it is still expected.
7. Do be specific in your budget breakdown. Budgets are more likely to be cut if there is not a clear justification.
8. Do submit requests for creative activities. However, we will only support research related activities within these endeavors.
9. Do get all needed paperwork/approvals before submitting the proposal. Saying you will conduct research on school children actually requires a long process to get approved (e.g., IRB approval, principal and superintendent).

**DON'T:**

1. Do not attempt to use SCICU funds to restock general lab chemicals that should be readily available in your own university labs. Limited amounts of rather unique chemicals or specific biological supplies (directly related to the proposed research) are OK. If you need 50ml of a chemical, do not request funds to buy an entire liter of that chemical.
2. Do not try to "pad" the budget. We are more likely to approve leaner, more targeted budgets that don't have a lot of expensive equipment, supplies, or student stipend funds at 40 hours a week, all summer.
3. Do not expect continued funding of slight variations of the same general research project from the same professor year after year after year, with only the student names and slight variations in the research included in the proposal. Once again, we are much more interested in funding the unique research ideas/projects of the students, provided they are well-structured, modest in cost, have all necessary permissions, and have within them a meaningful means of measurement/analysis.
4. Do not request money to support the faculty member (e.g., travel, per diem, stipends, etc.).
5. Do not add FICA, Medicare or other tax withholding to the student's stipend.