

FPA Research Engagement Grant Program (August 2020)

Research support programs from the Faculty of Public Affairs are typically targeted towards faculty who are applying for or have already secured external research funding (grant writing support, FPA Research Time Award, FPA Research Excellence Award, FPA Research Excellence Chairs, FPA Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program, FPA Research Teams program). While the FPA Research Productivity Bursary and the FPA Research Acceleration Award have a mandate beyond supporting external research funding applicants, these programs have limited eligibility. There are also a number of existing mechanisms targeted especially at tenure-track assistant professors to support them in launching their research programs (start-up research funds, a 0.5 credit course reduction, and the mentoring system). Tenured associate and full professors, who may be looking to increase their engagement in research but do not currently have external research funding, lack access to similar supports. This contingent of FPA faculty represents a significant group (approximately 90) who are contributing or have the potential to contribute significantly to the Faculty's overall research activities. A program designed to support this group of faculty in their continued research progress, and in some cases, initiate new research momentum may significantly increase the Faculty's overall research intensity and lead to new research experience possibilities for our graduate and undergraduate students.

The goal of this three-year FPA Research Engagement Program (REG) is to provide up to \$4,000 in research funding (as well as research feedback) to full-time tenured faculty¹, who do not currently hold external funding equivalent in value to (or greater than) a typical SSHRC Insight Development Grant. Applications for an FPA REG would be open for submissions twice a year (November or May). Applications would be emailed directly to the Associate Dean, Research and International (ADRI). The application would be comprised of:

- an updated CV (any format)
- a proposal (up to 3 pages) including: i) a description of anticipated research activities over the next 12 months, and iii) a plan for building out a broader research program over the next three years; and
- a budget describing how the requested research funds would be spent.

Special COVID-19 Initiative: FPA is aware of the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the professional and personal lives of our faculty members. Consequently, for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic years, the following adjustments to the program will be put in place:

- i) The program will be extended to tenure track assistant professors conditional on them having applied for a SSHRC Insight Development Grant (or equivalent) since joining the University and having exhausted all of their start-up research funding.
- ii) FPA faculty members are encouraged to provide a statement of up to 250 words to their FPA Research Engagement Grant applications outlining in broad terms how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their capacity to carry out research and how this should be taken into account during the adjudication of the application. The applicant should not feel the need to provide any confidential or personal information. This statement should be included in the proposal and if included may extend the page limit by one additional page (to a total of 4 pages).

¹ Faculty member must hold a combined 50% or greater appointment in FPA units.

- iii) Over this two-year period, FPA will ensure sufficient investment in the REG program, based on the number of eligible applications received, to ensure that all eligible FPA faculty members are able to access the support they need to move their research forward in these difficult times.

Recipients of an FPA REG are expected to complete the following requirements within one month of admission to the program in order to receive the first installment of the grant (valued at up to \$3,000):

- 1) meet with the ADRI and/or the Research Facilitator to identify a specific research project as the primary focus of their research activities over the next 12 months; and
- 2) submit a research plan, which also identifies appropriate milestones, for the 12-month period of their participation in the FPA REG Program.

Milestones may include activities such as:

- Identification of a type of future publication for the project (e.g. refereed journal article).
- Timeframe for providing a revised draft of the research plan to the Research Facilitator for feedback.
- Identification of a list of research activities for the year (presentation at a workshop, acting as a discussant at the FPA Emerging Perspectives graduate conference, submission of an abstract to a conference, etc.)

In order to receive the second installment of the grant (valued at up to \$1,000) at the end of the 12-month period, the faculty member would be required to have met all of the milestones/deliverables and submitted a good draft of the research paper resulting from the FPA REG to the ADRI.

For projects that require additional resources beyond the REG award, REG participants will be supported to identify and leverage other appropriate internal and/or external sources of funding to support their research programs.

The recipient would be expected to submit the research paper to a refereed outlet within 24 months of the start of the REG.

A recipient will only become eligible for a future REG award 12 months after the completion of a previous REG award. The recipient would not normally be eligible for a future REG award until the paper generated from the previous REG award has been submitted for external publication.

A faculty member can only hold one REG at a time. While a faculty member may work on a REG research project with one or more co-authors, only one REG will be granted for a single project.

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and

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