



Office of Faculty Excellence

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Research Incentive Award (RIA)

2016-2017 Procedures

(Approved by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, September 8, 2016)

I. Program Overview

UCF Research Incentive Awards (RIA) are available to faculty in the College of Arts and Humanities, College of Business Administration, College of Education and Human Performance, College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Health and Public Affairs, College of Optics and Photonics, College of Nursing, College of Sciences, Rosen College of Hospitality Management, and Institutes and Centers (I&C).

For 2016-17, there are up to 20 new RIA awards available. If a Research Incentive Award recipient of a college, or institute or center, leaves university employment, their award will remain within the college, or will revert to the vice president for research (I&C awards only) for "recycling." These recycled awards will become additional UCF Research Incentive Awards for the following academic year. The Office of Academic Affairs provides the funding for these awards. The specifics of the RIA program were developed through consultation between the Office of Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. Additional awards are also available at-large (as detailed later) for all faculty and research staff, including those not in a college, institute, or center.

II. Funding and Allocation of Awards

Regardless of the contract length (9-months or 12-months), award recipients will receive a \$5,000 increase to their base salary retroactive to August 8, 2016, the start of the 2016-17 contract. The actual dollar amount awarded for the academic year 2016-17 will be based on 9-month or 12-month employment.

III. Faculty Eligibility

Nominations for the awards may be made by faculty, students, staff, alumni, or by self-nomination. The successful nominee must have an outstanding research, scholarly, or creative record that advances the body of knowledge in their field.

Nominees from the colleges must be full-time faculty holding tenured or tenure-earning positions. Nominees from the institutes and centers must be full-time employees in research staff positions who have served as principal investigators on contracts and grants awarded to UCF by an outside sponsor. Nominees from other academic units applying for an at-large award must be full-time faculty holding tenured or tenure-earning positions. All candidates must have served continuously since August 8, 2012, the start of the 2012-13 academic year. No

candidate may be awarded a RIA more than **once every five years**. ***Faculty who received a RIA effective August 8, 2011 or earlier are eligible to apply.*** I&C faculty who are members of academic departments should apply through their respective college.

IV. Application and Supporting Documentation

The accompanying application form must be used for all nominations. Documentation and materials supporting the nominee's research or creative accomplishments must accompany each application.

V. Evaluation and Award Process

Each college will **elect** a peer review committee* of at least five (5) **tenured** faculty that will select its recommended awardees. Dean of a college may nominate a maximum of two additional **tenured** faculty members to the committee. The Research Council will serve as the peer review committee and will select the recommended I&C awardees. A committee consisting of one representative from each college committee and one representative from the Research Council will serve as the university peer review committee to select the recommended at-large awardees. Nominees for at-large awards will include the runner-ups submitted from each college committee and I&C.

The criteria for evaluating applicants' files will include the following major categories to be applied as is appropriate for the 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 candidate's discipline;
- All peer review committees should take into consideration the fraction of time assigned (FTE) for research for all applicants.

The president, on recommendation from the provost and the vice president for research and commercialization, will give the final approval for award recipients. After the approval by the president, each college, institute, and center will notify all nominees of the results, including an explanation of the unit's reasons for its recommendations.

**Candidates for an award are not eligible to serve on peer review committees.*