

Use of Discretionary College Funds

The College realizes discretionary funds when resources are available that originate from various sources and are not tied to a specific purpose. Funds generated from management of College Forests after approved operational costs are covered are a principle example. Such discretionary funds may be utilized in the following ways:

1. Allocation to College support units and/or departments as a part of annual budgets.
2. Retention within reserve accounts.
3. Dedication to an innovative grants program in education, research, and extended education.
4. Investment in additional land and/or capital assets.
5. Matching funds for proposals submitted to the University Research Office for OSU-supported grants (e.g., Research Equipment Reserve Fund).

Innovative Grants Program in Education, Research, and Extended Education

When such resources are available, the availability of funds for innovative proposals in education, research, or extended education will be communicated to the College of Forestry community, including faculty and staff, through a call for proposals.

Faculty or staff members will initiate a proposal through their unit leader who initially assesses the adequacy and appropriateness of using allocated unit resources to support the project.

Those proposals deemed appropriate for College consideration will be evaluated by the Forestry Executive Committee (FEC) using the following criteria. Note: criteria are not weighted nor in priority order; a proposal need not meet all criteria for consideration.

Criteria:

- Supports implementation of the College's Strategic Plan or a forest plan.
- Has potential to leverage additional funding from outside sources (*grants, contract, gifts, etc*).
- Provides multi-disciplinary and/or cross-unit collaboration.
- Captures significant, unique opportunities not readily available elsewhere.
- Represents innovation in approach, implementation or evaluation.

Requests for Matching Funds for OSU-Sponsored Grants

When faculty request matching funds from the College for OSU-sponsored grants (e.g., Research Equipment Reserve Fund), the proposal will be submitted through the unit leader who will assess the adequacy and appropriateness of using allocated unit resources for matching funds. Proposals deemed appropriate for College consideration will be evaluated by the FEC based on the evaluative criteria used by the University for the specific type of grant for which the matching funds are requested.

Schedule

The following describes the schedule for the allocation of discretionary funds, when they are available, for: 1) innovative education, research, and extended education projects, and 2) matching funds for proposals submitted to the University Research Office for OSU-supported grants (e.g., Research Equipment Reserve Fund).

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| July | The FEC decides if discretionary funds will be available for the College's innovative grants program and OSU-sponsored grants requiring matching funds. |
| August | Faculty and staff are notified to submit requests for funding to support innovative projects and requests for matching funds. |
| October | The FEC evaluates requests and makes funding decisions. |
| January | The FEC evaluates the availability of discretionary funds for a second round of proposals. If discretionary funds are available, the faculty and staff are notified about the availability of funds to support innovative projects and requests for matching funds. |
| February | The FEC evaluates requests and makes funding decisions. |