

## **Graduate Research and Inquiry Program (GRIP)**

A proposal set forth to Florida Atlantic University by the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) on behalf of the Graduate and Professional Students in partnership with the Graduate College, Student Affairs, and the Provost's Office of Florida Atlantic University

September 5, 2014

## **I. Proposal Abstract**

The Graduate Research and Inquiry Program (GRIP) is intended to help doctoral, master's and professional students by providing funding for scholarly projects and endeavors. Currently, there are limited internal-research funding opportunities university wide for graduate and professional students at Florida Atlantic University. As an initial effort, the GPSA is proposing the creation of three funding awards: **1)** Individual Research Grant Awards (up to \$1,000) **2)** Individual Research Grants Awards to support external funding applications (up to \$1,500) and **3)** Team Project Awards (up to \$4,000). The projected award fund for the 2014-2015 academic year is \$60,000. Creation of the GRIP funding awards strongly supports the goal articulated in the University's Strategic Plan to position Florida Atlantic University as an internationally recognized center of excellence in research, knowledge creation, and innovation.

## **II. Background**

### **A. History and Mission of GPSA:**

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) represents FAU's graduate and professional student population. It advocates for the interests of graduate and professional students university wide and strive to enrich their experiences. The GPSA office evolved from the Agency of Graduate Student Concerns, which was created by a group of College of Science graduate students who identified a need for representation of and advocacy for FAU graduate students. The GPSA acts as a conduit for the resolution of the needs and concerns unique to FAU graduate and professional students by coordinating efforts with the Graduate College, Student Government, University Administration, Division of Research, faculty from individual colleges, and the community. As such, it is the GPSA's top priority to continue to identify these needs and concerns and present them to the University's leaders.

### **B. Existing Graduate Student Research Support at FAU:**

One of the most successful GPSA programs has been the Graduate Travel Grant program. It was created in response to the growing need for graduate students to present their research outside of FAU. During the 2013-2014 academic year, we distributed approximately \$100,000 in travel grants to 232 graduate and professional students to present their research and scholarly projects at local, national, and international conferences. The Graduate Travel Grant Program is funded through the Student Government budget, a division of Student Affairs. Subsequently, a growing number of students have approached the GPSA and inquired about additional mechanisms to apply for research funding. The university currently offers a Dissertation Year Award through the Division of Research, in which doctoral students in their final year of dissertation work can apply for up to \$1,500. This award aims to help doctoral

candidates complete their dissertation work. However, master's students and doctoral students who have not yet advanced to candidacy are not eligible to apply for these funds. Many colleges offer specific fellowships and scholarships geared towards stipend and tuition support, but lack formal research and inquiry funding opportunities.

### **C. Comparable Graduate Student Research Support at other Florida institutions:**

The GPSA has conducted a preliminary survey of the research and inquiry funding opportunities offered by the universities in the Florida public state university system. The findings show that a number of universities have created specific internal funding mechanisms to support graduate student research. The University of West Florida sponsors the Graduate Student Scholarly and Creative Activity Grant (<http://uwf.edu/offices/research-sponsored-programs/>), which offers up to \$1,000 in funding to graduate students. Similarly, the University of Central Florida established the UCF Graduate Research Excellence Fellowship that also awards up to \$1,000 of graduate research funding (<https://funding.graduate.ucf.edu/fellowships/>). The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University is currently developing their Graduate Student Research Awards Program through their Research and Sponsored Programs Office. The University of South Florida, in addition to their Dissertation Year Awards, is offering the Graduate Student Research Challenge Grant (<http://www.grad.usf.edu/funding-challenge-grants.php>). This grant program calls for interdisciplinary team research projects that bring together graduate students from multiple departments and colleges and are awarded up to \$5,000 in research funding. Florida State University not only offers graduate research funding awards through the colleges, but has also established the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA) (<http://ogfa.fsu.edu>). The OGFA at FSU provides fellowship advising, multiple workshops and presentations to help

students learn and apply to national funding agencies, and features Graduate and Professional Students of Distinction in their newsletters and on their website. The University of Florida, which holds the largest Graduate and Professional program in the state of Florida, assists graduate students through the Office of Research Funding Opportunities and the Office of Graduate Minority Programs Funding Opportunities.

### **III. Proposed Pilot Program – The Graduate Research and Inquiry Program (GRIP)**

The GPSA has identified a need for FAU to grow and expand the research funding opportunities for graduate and professional students. As an initial effort, the GPSA is proposing the creation of the Graduate Research and Inquiry Program (GRIP) which would have three funding awards: **1)** Individual Research Grant Awards (up to \$1,000) **2)** Individual Research Grants Awards to support external funding applications (up to \$1,500) and **3)** Team Project Awards (up to \$4,000). The projected award fund is \$60,000 (Table 1). Call for awards will be made twice a year: in the fall semester and in the spring semester.

**Table 1 – Projected total awards through the GRIP**

<b>Award type:</b>	<b>Maximum Award</b>	<b>Projected Awards per year</b>	<b>Projected Annual Award Funds</b>
Individual Research Grant	\$1,000	38	\$38,000
Individual Research Grants Awards - External Funding	\$1,500	4	\$6,000
Team Project Grant	\$4,000	4	\$16,000

The GRIP program will be administered by the Graduate College in collaboration with the Graduate and Professional Student Association and in consultation with the GRIP Steering Committee. The GRIP Steering Committee will consist of faculty, administrators, staff, alumni and students. In addition, a graduate assistant will assist in the implementation and execution of the GRIP. The total cost of the GRIP (including awards, support staff costs, and marketing) is projected to be \$114,524 (Table 2).

**Table 2 - Proposed GRIP Budget 2014-2015 and Funding Sources**

**GRIP Total Budget:  
\$114,524**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Graduate College</b>	<b>GPSA</b>	<b>Funding Source TBD</b>
Grant Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00
Graduate Assistant Stipend (0.50 FTE)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00
Reception Food Services	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
Marketing Services	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Staff- Coordinator, Student Support Services (25%)	\$11,462.50	\$ -	\$ -
Staff- Assistant Dean (5%)	\$ 5,109.00	\$ -	\$ -
Staff- Dean (5%)	\$10,752.00	\$ -	\$ -
Graduate Tuition Waiver	\$ 8,200.17	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,523.67</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 74,000.00</b>

**The benefits of the Graduate Research and Inquiry Program awards include:**

1. The program will assist graduate and professional students from all disciplines in completing scholarly research and creative endeavors related to their academic studies including, but not limited to, dissertations and master's theses.
2. Students will have an opportunity to grant write and will receive feedback on their grant writing skills and proposed work.
3. Funding may serve as seed money to develop applications to external funding agencies such as NSF, NIH and other national funding agencies.
4. Distribution of funds will include students in historically underfunded disciplines.
5. Funding will assist in promoting academic success and increasing the rate of degree completion of graduate and professional students.

#### **IV. GRIP Implementation Strategy**

##### **A. Proposed Timeline:**

September 2014	Program Approval
October 2014	Program Funded
November 2014	Graduate Assistant Hiring Process
December 2014	Steering & Review Committees Formed Marketing Strategies Implementation
January 2015	Formal Program Launch Reception University-wide announcements
February 2015	Spring Applications Deadline Review of Proposals
March 2015	Awards Allocations

##### **B. Marketing Strategy**

The Graduate Research and Inquiry Program will use the distribution resources of the Graduate and Professional Student Association, Graduate College, Student Government, Division of Research and university-wide announcements. Advertisements will be sent electronically through e-mail lists, website postings, and social media sites (i.e., Facebook and Twitter). Printed advertisements as well as the University Press will be employed. In addition, the GPSA college representatives will advertise through their respective colleges. Awardees will be highlighted in university-wide communications, such as the Graduate College newsletter, the GPSA Owl Awards, and the Annual Graduate Research Day.



## **V. Student Participation Criteria and Requirements**

### **A. Individual Research Grant:**

#### Student Eligibility:

- All Florida Atlantic University graduate or professional students in good standing
- Special consideration will be given to students who will use grant funds to complete an application to external funding agencies or can demonstrate he or she has applied to a non-FAU funding source.
- Students may only receive one award per academic year.

#### Deadlines:

All required forms, documents and letters must be submitted by the deadlines to be considered complete.

- Spring Deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Fall Deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Application Process:

1. Completed application form
2. Grant proposal with all required sections, including itemized budget
3. Letter of recommendation from faculty advisor(s)
4. Research Compliance and Safety Form (Graduate College Form 12) signed by all applicants
5. Current résumé

6. If applicable, a copy of external funding application or reviewed grant application that has been submitted prior.

All proposals will be reviewed by the Graduate Research and Inquiry Program Committee, which is composed of administrators, faculty, graduate and professional students and alumni.

#### Grant Expenditures:

Maximum amount of individual award: \$1,000

\*Students that have submitted or plan to submit a grant application to an external funding agency may be eligible to apply for up to \$1,500.

Funds must be spent within 12 months of award acceptance.

#### **B. Team Project Award:**

##### Student Eligibility:

- All Florida Atlantic University graduate or professional students in good standing.
- Team must be composed of three or more graduate and/or professional students from three different disciplines, departments or colleges.
- Special consideration will be given to students who will use grant funds to complete an application to external funding agencies or can demonstrate they have applied to a non-FAU funding source.
- Team project funding may not be combined with individual Graduate Research Inquiry Program grants.

## Deadlines:

All required forms, documents and letters must be submitted by the deadlines to be considered complete.

- Spring Deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Fall Deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>

## Application Process:

1. Completed application form
2. Grant proposal with all required sections, including itemized budget
3. Letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor(s) of team member
4. Research Compliance and Safety Form (Graduate College Form 12) signed by all applicants
5. Current résumé of all applicants

All proposals will be reviewed by the Graduate Research and Inquiry Program Committee, which is composed of administrators, faculty, graduate and professional students and alumni.

## Grant Expenditures:

Maximum amount of team project awards award: \$4,000

Funds must be spent within 24 months of award acceptance.

### **C. Award Notification:**

Notifications will be electronically sent within six to eight weeks of submission of the Graduate Research and Inquiry Program grant application.

### **D. Requirements for all Awardees:**

1. Recipients must be active, degree-seeking graduate students for the duration of the project.
2. Recipients must present research and inquiry projects at the Graduate and Professional Research Day.
3. A progress report must be submitted at 6 and 12 months after starting research or inquiry project.
4. Reference the grant in presentations and publications

### **VI. Contact Information**

Aloha Balza – GPSA Director - [abalza1@fau.edu](mailto:abalza1@fau.edu)

Ramon Garcia-Areas – College Medicine GPSA Representative – [rgarci45@fau.edu](mailto:rgarci45@fau.edu)