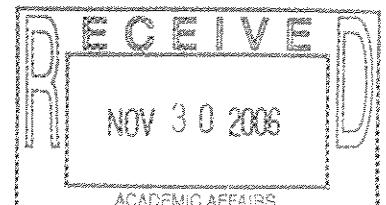


Strategic Priority Funding Application Form 2007-2008

#7

Project Name <u>Long-term Faculty Research Grants</u>	
Applicant's Name <u>Anne Blackhurst</u>	Mailing Address <u>AF 115</u>
Applicant Signature _____	
Email Address <u>anne.blackhurst@mnsu.edu</u>	Phone Number <u>5203</u>
Dept. Chair Signature _____	Date _____
Dean Signature <u><i>A. Blackhurst</i></u>	Date <u>11/30/06</u>
Vice President Signature <u><i>S. J. ...</i></u>	Date <u>11-30-06</u>
Date Submitted to Office of Institutional Planning: <u>November 30, 2006</u> (Deadline is November 30, 2006)	

Priority Number _____



Minnesota State University, Mankato FY08 Strategic Priority Funding Request

1. Which Strategic Priority and Objective does this funding request support? See link for Strategic Priority definitions. <http://www.mnsu.edu/president/priorities/definitions/>

Innovative Idea: Long-term Faculty Research Grants

Strategic Priority: This proposal has the potential to support a number of Strategic Priorities, including Enhancing Graduate Education (Priority 4), Academic Enhancing Excellence in Undergraduate Programs (Priority 5), and Developing Campus-wide Plans (Priority 1). In particular, the proposal supports recommendations made by the Enrollment Management Committee and the Public Relations and Marketing Committee.

2. Provide a brief description of your project. Please attach a one page project narrative:

These three-year grants would support tenured faculty who show clear promise of developing the kind of research agendas that can be transformative for both the individual and the institution. The grants would be reserved for faculty whose research has the potential, if nurtured and supported by the institution, to garner significant external recognition in the form of grants, private funding, publicity, and acknowledgement by the national academic community.

3. How will the funding request support the Strategic Priority?

- a. Strengthen graduate education by supporting the level of faculty research that is required of a doctorate granting institution;
- b. Strengthen graduate and undergraduate programs by enhancing faculty scholarship, which contributes to excellent teaching and a vibrant academic community;
- c. Enhance enrollment management efforts by raising the reputation and visibility of the institution;
- d. Contribute to marketing and public relations efforts by differentiating MSU Mankato in the eyes of prospective students and donors;
- e. Increase faculty grant productivity, which will ultimately provide additional funding to support faculty research through indirect cost recovery and incentive programs.

4. Describe the measurable outcomes:

- a. Increased grant activity (more proposals submitted; more funded proposals; larger amounts funded)
- b. Increased visibility of faculty scholarship
- c. Increased number of faculty publications and other signifiers of the quality of faculty scholarship

5. Assessment Measures – Define what methods will be used in assessing the effectiveness of the project.

- a. Number of publications and grant proposals
- b. Dollar amount of external awards
- c. Visibility of faculty research (in local and national media and the national and international academic communities)

Reports Due:

6. Mid Year Report due _____ January 31, 2008

7. Summary Report due _____ June 30, 2008

8. **Budget Request:** From Strategic Initiative Funding

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Match</u>
Salary	<u>\$33,000 (Year 1)</u>	_____
	<u>\$66,000 (Year 2)</u>	
	<u>\$99,000 (Year 3)</u>	
Fringe	_____	_____
Grad Assistant	_____	_____
Grad Assistant Stipend	_____	_____
Non Salary (Specify)		
Allowable Research Expenses	<u>\$25,000 (Year 1)</u>	_____
	<u>\$50,000 (Year 2)</u>	_____
	<u>\$75,000 (Year 3)</u>	_____
Equipment	_____	_____
Total Budget Requested *	<u>\$58,000 (Year 1)¹</u>	_____
	<u>\$116,000 (Year 2)</u>	
	<u>\$174,000 (Year 3)</u>	

9. **Special consideration (e.g. room, building, office or any impact on other divisions):**

None

*Pending funding.

¹Each year's total is equal to the number of faculty x \$6,600 (adjunct salary for one course per semester) + \$25,000 in research grants (\$5,000 per faculty member). To fund the project permanently, \$174,000 would need to be added to the base budget in Graduate Studies and Research in Year 3.

Strategic Priority Funding Request

Proposed Project: Long-term Faculty Research Grants

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to support tenured faculty who have established records of scholarship and show clear promise of developing the kind of research agendas that can be transformative for both the individual and the institution. These grants would be reserved for faculty whose research has the potential, if nurtured and supported by the institution, to garner significant external recognition in the form of grants, private funding, publicity, acknowledgement by the academic community, or other signifiers of distinction. The grants would fill a critical void in the current on-campus funding structure: Namely, the need to support scholarship beyond the initial "seed" money that is provided by Faculty Research Grants. In addition, the grants would provide faculty with time, which is arguably more important than money in developing and sustaining a prolific and distinguished research agenda. In its recent site visit, HLC noted the relatively low level of research productivity among MSU faculty and made it clear that we will need to find ways to reduce faculty workload in order to achieve the level of productivity expected of a doctorate granting institution.

Each year, up to five faculty members would be awarded a Long-term Research Grant, which would cover the cost of a .25 research release during each semester of the three-year program. Thus, in Year 1, five faculty members would be awarded grants for a three-year period. Five additional faculty members would be awarded grants in Years 2 and 3 of the program, for a total of 15 grant recipients in Year 3. After Year 3, the number of faculty would remain constant at 15, as five new faculty members replaced the faculty who had finished their three-year terms the previous year. In addition to the .25 research reassignment per semester, grant recipients would receive \$5,000 per academic year to support their research efforts. These funds could be used to compensate undergraduate or graduate research assistants, to pay for travel related to conducting or disseminating research, or for other allowable expenditures.

Long-term Research Grants would be awarded based on a competitive, university-wide process in which applications were evaluated on the basis of feasibility, potential contribution to the body of knowledge in the discipline, and potential for generating external recognition and funding. Recipients would be required to submit annual reports outlining their progress toward established goals. In addition, recipients in the final year of the three-year funding cycle would present their research findings at an annual research colloquium.

President Davenport has repeatedly and publicly articulated his desire for Minnesota State Mankato to become a world-class institution. Central to this goal will be our ability to receive national and international recognition for the quality and quantity of our faculty's research. In short, securing a place on the world stage will require us to increase our level of support for faculty research and find new ways to nurture promising scholars. If we are successful, we will clearly attract more talented students and faculty, which will ultimately increase the quality of our academic programs. Thus, this proposal has the potential to advance several of the institution's strategic priorities: **enrollment management, marketing and public relations, enhancing graduate education, and enhancing academic excellence in undergraduate studies.**