

Request for Proposals to Provide Undergraduate Research Experiences
6nov07

Provost Rita Cheng invites proposals for creating and supporting undergraduate research experiences in academic departments and centers. Funded through the 2007-09 UWM Budget Initiative, UWM is establishing an Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) that will foster and support the participation of undergraduate students with supervising faculty, research staff and graduate students in research projects that engage students in discovery and critical thinking. OUR's support for projects will include funds for summer internships (student and faculty/graduate assistant stipends); stipends for advanced undergraduate student researchers; assistance for students in preparation of poster and other research presentations; travel funds for students; and other infrastructure support. OUR will also serve as the umbrella organization in coordinating and supporting UWM's array of undergraduate research opportunity programs, including the McNair program, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) opportunities for NSF Principle Investigators.

In addition to funds to directly support the undergraduate student research experiences, the 2007-09 Budget Initiative can also support faculty positions in departments developing and growing undergraduate research experiences. The faculty line does not need to be devoted to undergraduate research, but the proposal needs to demonstrate explicitly that the addition of a line will strengthen the department's participation in undergraduate research, its scholarly and research endeavors and/or the quality of its undergraduate and graduate programs.

Criteria and Expectations:

1. The number of undergraduate students participating in undergraduate research experiences and the quality of that experience will increase.
2. Opportunities will exist for students across disciplines and year-in-school, with a special emphasis on;
 - a. Engaging first and second-year students
 - b. Building research experiences in STEM areas (sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics).
 - c. Enrolling students of color in undergraduate research experiences.
3. The research experiences for students must engage them in learning that will ensure some level of independent inquiry.

Proposal Format

1. Basic data (cover page)
2. Vision and Opportunity for Undergraduate Research Experiences fostered by the department; participating faculty; participating students.

3. Current undergraduate research experiences offered by departmental faculty; participating faculty; participating students.
4. Resources requested:
 - a) If a faculty line is being requested, describe:
 - (1) Area of discipline; anticipated contribution to academic program, research/scholarly work, and undergraduate initiatives
 - (2) Anticipated salary, start-up (if any); location (office/lab,etc)
 - b) Description of desired resources to support departmental development/expansion of undergraduate research experiences
 - (1) Student stipends (summer internships; stipends for advanced students)
 - (2) Stipends to support graduate student research supervisors
 - (3) Summer stipends for supervising faculty, research staff, graduate assistants
 - (4) Other

Timeline and Review Process:

Submission deadline: December 19, 2007

Proposals should be submitted electronically to Provost Rita Cheng. Those requesting a faculty line need to be approved by the appropriate dean.

The Provost will solicit advice from the Advisory Committee for the Office of Undergraduate Research. With that advice and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Vice Chancellor for Research, the Provost will select proposals for funding in 2008-09.

Selection date: February 1, 2008

Funding Source: UWM 2007-09 Budget Initiative: \$2,146,000