SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
BRIDGE FUNDING APPLICATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Bridge program is to enable continuance of a research lab for an interim period until extramural support can be re-established. Priority will be given to Senate Faculty who have lost or are about to lose all of their extramural funding. See priorities for selection below. Applications will go to the relevant Department Chair and then to the Success/Bridge Committee.

ELIGIBILITY

This support is intended to assist only those Principal Investigators (PIs) from the School of Biological Sciences who are Academic Senate members and who are truly broke, i.e., with no available extramural or start-up funds. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis in those instances where some grant support remains, but those funds must be unalterably committed to a specific need (such a grant might be for equipment or training). Where any such support remains, no bridge grant funds may be used without prior written approval by the Committee.

Criteria for PI eligibility:
1. They have received extramural funding from peer-reviewed sources for at least three of the four years prior to their requests.
2. Fifty percent or more of their extramural grant funds have been managed by the School of Biological Sciences, and >50% of their future grants will be.
3. They have lost all of their extramural funding or will do so shortly.
4. They can document substantial efforts to re-establish funding, e.g. they have applied for funds and the request has been denied.
5. They have a recent history of productivity (publications).
6. They provide a timeline for submission of grant proposals.
7. They provide a prioritized budget for the requested bridge funds.
8. They have applied for other UCSD Academic Senate Research Grant(s) and, if possible, for the UCSD Academic Senate Bridge Grant.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSE CATEGORIES

Funds may be requested for:
- Supplies and materials
- Animal costs
- Salary and benefits for key research support personnel

Funds cannot be used for:
- PI salary
- Travel - Exceptions for travel may be granted for carrying out essential research and/or attending granting agency workshops.
- Equipment
- Administrative costs or covering prior deficit spending (e.g. overdrafts)

AWARDS

Awards will be granted, based on need, for a maximum of one year or until the grantee re-establishes funding from other sources, whichever comes first.

When extramural funding is re-established (in hand), all unspent funds must be returned (to assist other investigators who qualify for Bridge assistance).

PAYBACK

Once grant funds are re-established, 25% of the Bridge funds received are required to be paid back to the Bridge Program to be available for those in future need. Payback can be split over the number of years of the new grant. PIs may use the Faculty Salary Exchange Program (FSEP) as a mechanism to generate funds for payback.

PRIORITY FOR BRIDGE FUNDING

The following issues will be addressed by the Department Chair and weighed by the Committee to determine priority:

- Productive individuals who will have no extramural funding and might otherwise have to close their labs.
- Likelihood of being funded in the next round.
- The candidate's qualifications, recent productivity, good standing, track record of securing external support, the needs outlined in the application, and the plan to obtain funding and achieve financial independence.
- The Programmatic needs of the Department and School.
- The availability of funds to the Bridge Program.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should include the following:

- A write-up or letter describing the need and justifying eligibility, as defined under the Criteria for Eligibility above (2 pages maximum, recommended).
- Separate documentation of substantial efforts to re-establish funding, e.g., a list of applications for funds with dates and whether or not the requests were denied.
- A recent history of productivity (list of publications).
- A timeline for submission of new grant proposals.
- A prioritized Budget for the requested bridge funds.
- Evidence of application for other UCSD Academic Senate Research Grant(s) and, if possible, the Academic Senate Bridge Grant.
- A letter from the Department Chair re the need/appropriateness of the request

Submit the signed application, with all supporting documents, in a single PDF file to your Department Chair or to the Chair of the Bridge committee. The Department Chair and Dean's office will verify that the PI has no available funding for other projects from any extramural sources. (Incomplete applications will be returned.)