**Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering, SJSU**

**Request for Internal Proposals: 2021 Small Group Projects**

Proposal due by noon time Monday November 6, 2020.

Faculty are invited to submit a competitive research proposal to the Small Group Projects CoE Dean’s initiative. The initiative supports a small group of 2-3 SJSU faculty proposing to conduct promising and exciting research in their collective area of strength. In addition, the group may include one or more external collaborator(s) from other academic institutions, national labs or industry. Faculty may only participate in one SGP at a time, thus faculty who are participating in a SGP that is ending 12/31/20 may apply, but faculty in year 1 of a SGP or faculty in year 2 of a SGP who are requesting a no cost extension may not apply in this cycle.

Two small group projects will be competitively selected in this cycle. Internal funding (≤ $50K) will be provided for the first-year (1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021), renewable for a second-year conditional on demonstrated satisfactory progress. The funding may be used to support undergraduate and M.S. students, to acquire research equipment and supplies, and for up to one month (20 working days, 8 hours/day) summer payment (but not for any release/assigned time).

To facilitate collaborations, supported SJSU B.S. and M.S. students may conduct research at a collaborator’s laboratory, with permission of collaborator, and with the exception of proprietary/confidential/classified research. Given current interest in deepening ties with UC Merced, up to 1/3 of the budget may be allocated for the UC Merced undergraduate student stipends and faculty payment. If any parts of the funds are allocated to UC Merced, the proposal must be approved for submission by the UC Merced office of sponsored research. UC Merced costs will be paid via invoicing by UC Merced to the SJSU Tower Foundation. All materials and supplies should be procured through SJSU and budgeted as such.

As with other internal COE funded research projects, owed points based upon funds utilized by SJSU faculty and students will apply.

**Purpose** – support development of externally funded Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA). Plans must include Year 1 and Year 2 deliverables, expected research products (reviewed journal papers, conference presentations), and planned grant proposal submissions, including specific funding opportunities to target and anticipated proposal program deadlines.

**Review Criteria**: Complementarity of group expertise and value of proposed research project, soundness, and feasibility of research approach and timeline, direct involvement of students, and quality and feasibility of plans for both publications and for sustainable, externally funded follow-up research projects.

**Format (must include the following sections; word limits should be strictly observed)**

- Project Title: ≤ 10 words

- Team: (names and affiliations, including external collaborators if any)

- Project Summary: ≤ 200 words

- Project Description (including problem statement, methodologies, tasks to complete, milestones timeline, student involvement, deliverables, research products and grant submissions): ≤ 800 words

- Budget (total ≤ $50k; use the provided spreadsheet; adapt if needed); budget justification (≤ 300 words)

- Complete and attach the provided statement of present and pending research funding; SJSU faculty only.

- Summary CV (≤ 2 pages) of each group member emphasizing relevant accomplishments, if any.

The PI should submit your proposal as a single pdf file named FirstName\_LastName\_Group\_2021SGP.pdf to <https://forms.gle/C8Zune6wcXjpAagy5> by **noon time November 6, 2020**.

**Q/A: Below are (edited) questions asked by colleagues last year and answers, which you may find useful.**

Q: Can a faculty submit or be involved in more than one proposal?

A: Yes, as long as the proposing teams are different (different 2-3 SJSU faculty, different external collaborators) and the proposed research is different. However, faculty may be awarded only one SGP at a time.

Q: Do we need to have external collaborator or can we have only SJSU collaborators?

A: Having external collaborators is encouraged to strengthen a proposal but is not required.  The main requirement is having a team of 2-3 SJSU faculty addressing a research problem in their complementary areas of strength and promising of external funding.  Definitive plans for proposals submission should be included.

Q: Can all my collaborators be external to SJSU?

A: No. The core personnel should be 2-3 CoE and/or SJSU faculty of complementary contributions.

Q: How will funding to UC Merced collaborators be dispersed?

A: As stated in the announcement, if any parts of the funds are allocated to UC Merced, you need to work with your UC Merced faculty to determine the total amount to allocate to the UC Merced faculty and any students, including any overhead. Include the amounts in your budget (not to exceed 1/3 of the total). Work with your UC Merced collaborator to have the proposal approved by the UC Merced office of sponsored research for submission. The UC Merced costs will be paid via invoicing by UC Merced to the SJSU Tower Foundation.

Q: Can I budget for 0.2 assigned (release) time and combine with my 0.2 University RSCA assigned time for a total of 0.4?

A: No. The ≤ $50K proposal budget should NOT include any allocations for release/assigned time. The amount is intended to cover the basic research needs of a 2-3 team members.  Some summer payment of up to 20 days, 8 hours/day, is allowed, however.

Q: How will the owed points be counted?

A: Based on the fraction of the total funding used to support SJSU CoE investigators.  This excludes funding allocations to UC Merced collaborators. Owed points will be discussed with the CoE PI after the proposal is selected for funding and before the award is accepted by the PI.

Q: How many proposals will be selected for funding?

A: Selection of two high quality promising proposals is the target for 2021 funding.