



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Ferris State University Senate Faculty Research Grant (SFRG) Committee
2023-2024 Faculty Research Committee Final Report
April 26, 2024

Dear Ferris State University Academic Senate,

This academic year, the committee consisted of nine faculty members from throughout the university:

Evan R. Watts (Chair)
Julie Herrema
Timothy Eklin
Tanzia Sharmin
Melinda Isler
Sonali Kurup
Nick Kuiper
Thomas C. Dowling (Ex-Officio)

A total of one meeting was held in the Fall and three meetings in the Spring, with relatively good attendance. We received a sharp increase in applications this year. This report will describe the major activities and accomplishments of the Senate Faculty Research Committee (SFRC).

- For **Fall cycle**, there were a total of eight submissions. Six were deemed fundable.
 1. “Exact inference for the Youden index under the multivariate roc curve in the presence of incomplete mass diseased and healthy biomarker data” by **Sumith Gunasekera**. Funding amount: \$5,000.00
 2. “Design, synthesis and evaluation of novel MEK inhibitors as anticancer agents” by **Sonali Kurup**. Funding amount: \$5,000.00.
 3. “Genetic engineering of novel macrolide antibiotics” by **Eric Nybo**. Funding amount: \$5,000
 4. “Reliability of ICD-10 coding for the identification of bacterial sinusitis” by **Benjamin Pontefract**. Funding amount: \$5,000
 - a. The initial proposal budget requested \$8,000. At the committee’s request, the PI submitted an amended budget of \$5,000.
 - b. At the committee’s request, the PI also amended the student wage rates on the proposal budget from \$20/hour to \$14/hour, to reflect posted wage limits. HR approval is being sought for a wage exception.
 5. “In vitro testing & evaluation of selective novel PPAR molecules that show promise with treatment of fatty liver disease” by **Tracey Ward**. Funding amount: \$5,000
 - a. The initial proposal budget requested \$6,997.67. At the committee’s request, the PI submitted an amended budget of \$5,000.
 6. “Servant Leadership Style of Police Commanders: The Mental Health Impacts of Leading” by **David White**. Funding amount: \$5,000
 - a. The initial proposal budget requested \$5,680.00. At the committee’s request, the PI submitted an amended budget of \$5,000.



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During this cycle, a total of **\$30,000.00** was awarded.

In the Spring, Academic Affairs made additional funding available as was requested and approved by the Senate. With this funding the SFRC was able to fund an additional Spring 2024 cycle.

- For the **Spring cycle**, there were a total of five submissions. Four were deemed fundable.
 1. “Environmental Temperature Effects on Electric Vehicle Performance: Insights from Applied Battery Research at FSU” by **Yigun Liu**. Funding amount: \$4,589.00
 2. “Understanding Indic and Islamic Traditions in Southeast Asia” by **J. Randall Groves**. Funding amount \$4,079.00.
 - This application was originally submitted in the Fall cycle but did not receive funding. The SFRC provided feedback on this decision, and the faculty member submitted a new proposal reflecting the suggested adjustments.
 3. “Enabling effective health administration by identifying leadership training needs on the job” by **Emmanuel Jadhav**. Funding amount: \$4,500
 4. “Patient Willingness to Seek Medical Care in Community Pharmacies” by **Mark Young**. Funding amount: \$5,000
 - This application was originally submitted in the Fall cycle but did not receive funding. The SFRC provided feedback on this decision, and the faculty member submitted a new proposal reflecting the suggested adjustments.

During this cycle, a total of **\$18,168.00** was awarded.

In summary, across two cycles we have received thirteen high-quality research proposals from a remarkably diverse collection of faculty, and we were able to fund ten of them. In total, the committee has awarded \$48,168.00 in research funding. At this time, we recommend that the budget for next year be increased to \$50,000 to accommodate the increase in submissions.

The committee also to thank Ferris State University for its commitment to supporting faculty research endeavors. This commitment has allowed faculty to gain funding for seed projects and provide research opportunities for students across campus.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Evan R. Watts, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Communication
Chair, Senate Faculty Research Committee
Ferris State University College of Arts and Sciences