



Faculty Innovation Fund 22/23

Pratt Institute School of Information

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Rationale

The purpose of SI's Faculty Innovation Fund is to advance research at the School of Information, specifically by supporting faculty research through prioritizing projects that look to make connections to external funding opportunities, as well as providing funding for pre-tenure faculty research.

While internal funding sources such as Pratt's Faculty Development Fund may make possible high-quality research, the ability to secure funding from external sources, such as through government, foundations, or corporate sponsorship, allows for more ambitious projects, as well as greater recognition within the academic community of the value of the work. The goal of this fund is to use School of Information monies to help support the work of faculty interested in taking their projects to the next level. Funding can be used for supporting things like pilot projects or proof concept projects, summer stipend for undertaking this work, supplies, or similar related needs.

A portion of the fund is earmarked for pre-tenure faculty without the priority that it be tied to external funding opportunities. The reason for this category is the recognition that grant writing can be a risky activity: a great deal of work that may not result in funding. Providing funds for pre-tenure faculty to support research without the requirement for seeking external funding supports the development of their research careers without the need to take on the additional risk.

Relationship to School Goals

The fund is in support of school goal #9, "*To pursue internal and external funding for innovation in research, teaching, and/or learning,*" as well as support for the part of the school's mission about "*making connections to arts, culture and technology.*"

Funding from Fiscal Year 2022/2023

- Seed Fund Category – \$20,000 for faculty research which prioritizes projects that have plans for seeking external funding
- Pre-tenure Faculty Category - \$5,000 for pre-tenure faculty

Note that additional funding may be allocated if available elsewhere in the budget.

Process

- Faculty fill-out the application form and send it to acocciol@pratt.edu by January 31.
- Any FT faculty can apply in the Seed Fund Category. Only pre-tenure faculty can apply in the Pre-tenure Faculty Category.
- The Dean will assemble 2-3 external peer reviewers to evaluate proposals. Reviews will be double-blind (reviewer will not see the name of the applicant, and the reviewers names will not be disclosed). Reviewers will provide a numeric score using the following scale; reviewers can optionally provide comments:
 - 5 = Recommends funding without reservation. Research objectives are clear and use of funds are clearly stated. For seed fund, external funding next steps are clearly articulated.
 - 4 = Recommends funding. Research objectives are largely clear and use of funds is clear. For seed fund, external funding could be improved but is present.
 - 3 = Recommends funding. Research objectives are largely clear and use of funds is clear. For seed fund, could be strengthened by making connections to external funding opportunities.
 - 2 = Do not recommend project for funding. Research objectives and funds to achieve objectives have some merit, but there are some issues.
 - 1 = Does not recommend project for funding. Research objective and plans to use funds to achieve objectives have major issues.

Two reviewers will be used; however, if there is significant disagreement between the two reviewers, then a third one will be selected.

Reviewers will have broad knowledge of the field of information and have an understanding of Pratt's place within the field (e.g., masters granting institution, etc.), but otherwise have no significant ties to the school. The reviewer will receive a modest honorarium. Reviewers will agree to keep proposals in confidence as is the practice with federal funding agencies.

- Dean makes funding decision based on external reviews and notifies applicants. Paperwork for fund distribution is processed.

Pratt SI Faculty Innovation Fund Application Form

Deadline: January 31, 2023 to Anthony Cocciolo (acocciol@pratt.edu)

Note that a maximum of \$750 can be rolled-over to the next fiscal year. Please indicate any amounts that will be spent in the next budget year (after July 1, 2023), and be specific about its purpose. All other funds must be spent by June 30, 2023, or will be forfeited.

- 1) Funding Category (select):
 - a) Seed Fund Category (plans for external support are prioritized)
 - b) Pre-tenure Faculty Category (plans for external support are not required)
- 2) Name(s):
- 3) Project Title:
- 4) Description (max 2 pages):
- 5) Budget:

Item	Amount	Budget Year
E.g., Summer Stipend	2500	20/21
E.g., Incentive for Focus group participants	500	21/22

- 6) Timeline

Month Year	Task(s)
E.g., June 2021	Recruit study participants
E.g., July 2021	Run Focus Groups
E.g., August 2021	Write-up results, work on grant application

- 7) For Seed Fund Category Only:

Plans for external support are highly suggested - please answer the following questions:

- a) The next stage of this project that will require funding is the following (please describe):
- b) I plan to apply for funding from the following source(s):
- c) If applicable, specific grant categories that I am interested in are as follows:
- d) I plan to have these grants submitted on the following Month, Year.

- e) I have checked that this project aligns with the funder's priorities:
Yes / No
- f) How does it align with the funder's priorities?
- g) I have checked that my timeline aligns with the funder's application timelines:
Yes / No

For Internal Use:

Peer Review Comments and Scores:

Reviewer 1:

Score:

Comments:

Reviewer 2:

Score:

Comments:

(If Applicable) Reviewer 3:

Score:

Comments:

Approval - Dean of SI :

Approved to fund at: \$ OR Do not Fund

Signature of Dean of SI: