

September 15, 2009

UNIVERSITY CENTRAL DISCOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2009-2010 COMPETITION

The University Central Discovery Grant Program aims to enhance the research programs of faculty members by providing seed funding to establish cooperative and interdisciplinary research programs, by stimulating the development of new ideas and areas of research, and by developing necessary infrastructure. Full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty members and those holding equivalent ranks in the Blair School of Music are eligible to submit proposals. *To compete successfully for an award, an applicant must demonstrate a strong potential to attract ongoing external funding.* Proposals that include support for graduate-student research are encouraged. There will be only a single competition during 2009-2010. A given faculty member's participation is limited to two proposal efforts, only one of those as principal investigator.

Categories of Support

A. Interdisciplinary Grants

Up to \$50,000/year will be awarded for up to two years for projects involving two or more faculty members (tenured or tenure-track, or equivalent at Blair, as described above) from different fields, generally from different departments or schools. Proposals for new equipment of value to several research programs will be considered under this category.

B. Pilot/Feasibility Studies

Up to \$25,000/year will be awarded for up to two years to individual investigators or multiple investigators within the same department or discipline. These grants are intended to enable investigators to perform key preliminary investigations or studies in new areas of research prior to submitting new grant applications. Proposals must emphasize new directions or ideas as opposed to incremental extensions of established ones.

C. Infrastructure Grants

Up to \$100,000/year will be awarded for up to two years for the establishment of facilities essential for research programs across departments and across disciplines. Substantial matching funds will be required in this category.

Proposal outlines for each of the above three categories accompany this announcement.

Proposals submitted to the University Central competition may involve investigators in the Medical Center, but for each such proposal, the principal investigator must be based in University Central. Such proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to the availability of funds.

Five copies of each proposal must be received in the Office of the Associate Provost for Research and Graduate Education (221 Kirkland Hall) by **November 11, 2009**, in order to be considered in this year's competition. The evaluation process will include peer-review by external reviewers followed by assessment by an internal review committee.

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Proposal Cover Page

Project Title: _____

Participating Faculty – List Principal Investigator (PI) or Project Director (PD) first:

Name	Dept./School	Academic Rank	Campus Phone	e-mail address

Campus Mailing Address for PI/PD: _____

Proposal Category (check one): Interdisciplinary Grant _____
 Pilot/Feasibility Grant _____
 Infrastructure Grant _____

Proposed Budget Period: From _____ to _____

Amount Requested:

Year 1 \$ _____

Year 2 \$ _____

Total \$ _____

UCDGP INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM
OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS

1. **General Description** Each proposal must begin with an up-to one-page summary of the proposed research that can be read and understood by someone with a science background but who is not an expert in the field of the proposed research. This description will assist the members of the internal review committee. Avoid the use of jargon and provide a context for the proposed work, including its implications.
2. **Project Summary** Outline the major goals of the proposed research and describe how they will be accomplished. State clearly the significance of the proposed research. *This section must not exceed three pages of single-spaced text (12-point font). Additional pages may be used for figures, tables and references. This section should be written for someone who is reasonably expert in the field, given that each proposal will be sent out for external review.*
3. **Rationale** Explain why the proposed research is interdisciplinary, how funding of the proposal would stimulate growth of a larger research program, and how the proposed research differs from that of the individual principal investigators (how does the whole exceed the sum of the parts?). Describe how the proposed research would place Vanderbilt at a competitive advantage for obtaining new extramural support (what unique research strengths would be enhanced by the awarding of a Discovery Grant?). Describe any graduate-student involvement in the research. *This section must not exceed one page (12-point font).*
4. **Budget** Provide a budget for up to two years, indicating how the funds would be spent if an award were made. Be certain to mention any supplemental funds (amounts and sources) that will be applied to support the proposed research.
5. **Curriculum Vitae** Provide a *two-page* (maximum) *c.v.* for each participating faculty member listed on the cover page. Each *c.v.* should include at least the following information: Name, degrees and institutions, record of professional employment, the number (only) of articles published in peer-reviewed journals (only) for each of the last five years, full citations (title, authors, journal, volume, page numbers, and date) for the five most recent publications, and record of grant support for the last five years (for each grant, provide: grant title; funding levels, including both direct costs and indirect costs; funding agency; and grant period). Each participating faculty member may use a third *c.v.* page to list his/her record of graduate-student and postdoctoral-fellow supervision, listing only those for whom the faculty member served as the *principal* thesis/dissertation advisor or mentor.
6. **Suggested External Reviewers** On a separate page, please provide the names, titles, affiliations and addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least four knowledgeable individuals considered to be leaders in the field(s) of the proposed research, declaring any professional connections with the investigators named on the cover page and indicating any potential conflicts of interest. **Suggested reviewers should be located in the U.S., hold a position at the level of Associate Professor or above, and not be a member of the Vanderbilt faculty.** *This page should appear as the very last page in the proposal – it will be removed before proposals are sent out for external review.*

UCDGP PILOT/FEASIBILITY PROGRAM
OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS

1. **General Description** Each proposal must begin with an up-to one-page summary of the proposed research that can be read and understood by someone with a science background but who is not an expert in the field of the proposed research. This description will assist the members of the internal review committee. Avoid the use of jargon and provide a context for the proposed work, including its implications.
2. **Project Summary** Outline the major goals of the proposed research and describe how they will be accomplished. State clearly the significance of the proposed research. *This section must not exceed three pages of single-spaced text (12-point font). Additional pages may be used for figures, tables and references. This section should be written for someone who is reasonably expert in the field, given that each proposal will be sent out for external review.*
3. **Rationale** Explain how funding this proposal would stimulate the growth of each faculty investigator's overall research program and/or the growth of a new direction for the faculty listed on the cover page. Describe any graduate-student involvement in the research. It is important to argue convincingly that funding the proposed research would do substantially more than maintain the *status quo*. *This section must not exceed one page (12-point font).*
4. **Budget** Provide a budget for up to two years, indicating how the funds would be spent if an award were made. Be certain to mention any supplemental funds (amounts and sources) that will be applied to support the proposed research.
5. **Curriculum Vitae** Provide a *two-page* (maximum) *c.v.* for each participating faculty member listed on the cover page. Each *c.v.* should include at least the following information: Name, degrees and institutions, record of professional employment, the number (only) of articles published in peer-reviewed journals (only) for each of the last five years, full citations (title, authors, journal, volume, page numbers, and date) for the five most recent publications, and record of grant support for the last five years (for each grant, provide: grant title; funding levels, including both direct costs and indirect costs; funding agency; and grant period). Each participating faculty member may use a third *c.v.* page to list his/her record of graduate-student and postdoctoral-fellow supervision, listing only those for whom the faculty member served as the *principal* thesis/dissertation advisor or mentor.
6. **Suggested External Reviewers** On a separate page, please provide the names, titles, affiliations and addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least four knowledgeable individuals considered to be leaders in the field(s) of the proposed research, declaring any professional connections with the investigators named on the cover page and indicating any potential conflicts of interest. **Suggested reviewers should be located in the U.S., hold a position at the level of Associate Professor or above, and not be a member of the Vanderbilt faculty.** *This page should appear as the very last page in the proposal – it will be removed before proposals are sent out for external review.*

UCDGP INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS

- 1. General Description** Each proposal must begin with an up-to one-page summary of the proposed research that can be read and understood by someone with a science background but who is not an expert in the field of the proposed research. This description will assist the members of the internal review committee. Avoid the use of jargon and provide a context for the proposed work, including its implications.
- 2. Proposed Facility** Briefly describe the proposed facility, considering the following questions. What will it be? Why is the development of this facility important? Is it to be a stand-alone facility or part of a larger one? Who will use it? How will it run? Will there be a policy-setting committee to guide the facility? If so, how will members be chosen? How will the facility help to stimulate disciplinary and interdisciplinary research? What competitive advantage will accrue to Vanderbilt by having such a facility? Describe how graduate students will use the proposed facility or equipment. How will graduate programs at Vanderbilt be enhanced by establishing this capability? *This section must not exceed two pages, including figures, tables and references (12-point font).*
- 3. User Community** Provide the following information for each major potential user of the proposed equipment/facility: (1) name and academic rank, (2) school, (3) department, (4) number of peer-reviewed publications per year for the most recent five-year period, (5) grant support (direct plus indirect costs) per year for the most recent five-year period, (6) a brief summary of his/her research program. *Please limit to one page per major user.*
- 4. Continuation** Outline a plan for maintenance and support of the facility after expiration of Discovery Grant Program funds, considering the following questions. What will be the plan for operating and maintaining the instrumentation, including considerations of technician support and maintenance contracts? Will the facility be run as a user facility wherein multiple users will operate the instrument(s), or in the service mode where “samples” are brought to the facility to be measured, characterized, or processed by an operator? Will there be a usage charge, and how will the rate be determined? How will the salary support for any necessary personnel be handled in the near-term and in the long-term? Who will provide the long-term salary support for personnel if any projected income does not materialize? *This section must not exceed two pages, including figures, tables and references (12-point font).*
- 5. Budget** Provide a budget for up to two years, indicating how the funds would be spent if an award were made. Be certain to mention any supplemental funds (amounts and sources) that will be applied to support the proposed research.
- 6. Curriculum Vitae** Provide a *two-page* (maximum) *c.v.* for each participating faculty member listed on the cover page. Each *c.v.* should include at least the following information: Name, degrees and institutions, record of professional employment, the number (only) of articles published in peer-reviewed journals (only) for each of the last five years, full citations (title, authors, journal, volume, page numbers, and date) for the five most recent publications, and record of grant support for the last five years (for each grant, provide: grant title; funding levels, including both direct costs and indirect costs; funding agency; and grant period). Each participating faculty member may use a third *c.v.* page to list his/her record of graduate-student and postdoctoral-fellow supervision, listing only those for whom the faculty member served as the *principal* thesis/dissertation advisor or mentor.

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7. Suggested External Reviewers On a separate page, please provide the names, titles, affiliations and addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least four knowledgeable individuals considered to be leaders in the field(s) of the proposed research, declaring any professional connections with the investigators named on the cover page and indicating any potential conflicts of interest. **Suggested reviewers should be located in the U.S., hold a position at the level of Associate Professor or above, and not be a member of the Vanderbilt faculty.** *This page should appear as the very last page in the proposal – it will be removed before proposals are sent out for external review.*