

# Strategic Funding Initiatives

## **Background**

The Fiscal Year 2012-13 E&G Budget includes just over \$1.1M as a buffer against future funding reductions and cost increases and to allow for modest investments in areas of critical strategic importance to IUP's future. Because of the very real possibilities of reduced appropriation and increased expenses, e.g., for health care and retirement, it is expected that any allocations made during FY2012-13 will be one-time in nature.

## **Process for Proposal Submission**

Units wishing to request funding are encouraged to submit proposals through their unit leadership to the cognizant vice president for consideration. Each vice president will endorse and forward those proposals they deem appropriate to the Budget Office no later than October 30, 2012. Each vice president may establish additional deadlines for their division to allow adequate time for vice presidential review to meet the October 30 deadline. The Budget Office will facilitate review of the submitted proposals by the University Planning Council, which will make recommendations on funding to the President's Cabinet. President's Cabinet will make final decisions on which proposal(s) to fund no later than November 15, 2012. The unit receiving funding for an approved proposal will submit to the Budget Office a report summarizing the results of the project by November 30, 2013.

## **Proposal Format**

Proposals should be no longer than three pages in length and should use the included template. The proposal narrative must include a brief description of the project or activity to be funded, a discussion of why the proposed project meets one or more of the criteria described herein, specific outcomes to be expected should the project be funded, and why the unit has ability to deliver the specified outcomes. Quantitative outcomes showing a clear return on investment are strongly preferred. Generally, no more than \$100,000 will be awarded for a successful proposal. However, in special circumstances somewhat larger awards may be made with appropriate rationale and justification. Awards should not be used for ongoing operating or maintenance expenses.

## **Criteria**

All proposals must meet one or more of these criteria:

- Strengthening academic quality and reputation
- Improving student success, retention, and completion
- Enhancing IUP's financial sustainability
- Furthering IUP's current strategic goals

The following other factors may be considered in evaluating proposals:

- Enhancing performance on IUP's new performance funding metrics
- Increasing capacity to meet demonstrated demand or need
- Identification and assignment of other resources to "match" funds allocated from the strategic initiative pool; funds for ongoing operating or maintenance expenses can be used as "match" funds