

# MEMORANDUM

FROM: Marvin Paule  
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Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

TO: BMB Faculty

DATE: Monday, November 13, 2006  
REVISED Wednesday, November 29, 2006

SUBJECT: Bridging Funds

## REMARKS:

It has become increasingly obvious that the department needs to have a policy on bridging funds for those who are having difficulty with grant renewals. This is a revised version based on our discussion at the November Faculty Meeting.

### 1) Eligibility:

(a) There is a demonstrated need for interim support for a previously funded project: Specifically to help an ongoing project that has missed the cut-off, has not secured bridging funds from the granting agency, and requires the funds to keep momentum going until external funds are re-secured.

(b) The applicant must have been a recent (less than 2 years) principal investigator of a grant (with at least \$75,000 direct costs) from a national agency; and be actively engaged in an effort to restore grant funding.

(c) Generally, grant applications that were triaged will not be considered eligible for bridge funding as the likelihood of future success is not high unless the applicant can show particularly egregious errors in the review. Projects eligible for bridging funds must have secured a score close to the cutoff for funding.

(d) Eligibility for “bridging funds” generally excludes starting investigators or investigators without a track record of external funding as there are not grants to “bridge”. Starting investigators are eligible for extension and supplementation of start-up funds by other mechanisms. Eligibility is dependent on the priority score of submitted grant proposals and on research productivity using start-up funding.

## **2) Application Process:**

(a) The application for bridging funds will include the following:

(i) A copy of the most recent grant application, the comments of the reviewers (NIH “pink sheets” or equivalent, where available) including the applicant’s response to the reviewers.

(ii) A one page description of how the requested bridging funds will help in preparation of future applications to extramural funding agencies. This should include a brief budget showing how laboratory personnel will be supported or separated from the laboratory.

## **3) Criteria for the review:**

(a) The review committee will be the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Executive Committee, excluding any members who are applicants for bridging funds.

(b) Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the opinion of the agency peer review committee, the response by the applicant, and the Executive Committee’s internal evaluation of the proposal. Inherent in the latter is an evaluation of the likelihood the applicant will be successful in garnering a renewal. One of the metrics for this, as it is with external review committees, is the applicant’s track record of funding and publication.

## **(4) Funding level.**

(a) The amount of the bridging funds is likely to be around \$30,000 (in FY07), though greater or lesser amounts can also be awarded. This may be dependent upon garnering matching funds from the Dean and/or VPR.

(b) Budget restrictions.

Graduate Student stipends must be given priority funding.

No summer salary for the applicant is allowed, consistent with NIH award of bridging funds.

(c) The duration of funding will normally be limited to one year. It is expected that by this time the results of a resubmission will be known.

(d) At this point, the applicant may wish to reapply for a second year of bridging funds with the results of the second round of agency review.

(e) Bridging funding is limited to two successive years. Applicants with funding problems on a second project within two years of obtaining bridging funds for a first project will be given lower priority for new bridging funds. This does not exclude bridging for a second project, however.