

LETTER OF AGREEMENT-LOA #11: Research Bridge Funding Pilot Project

The University and the Association share interests in stability for employees and in retaining high quality research faculty. Non-tenure track research faculty occasionally experience breaks in external funding, which can result in loss of employment at the University. Access to short-term bridge funding might enable such faculty members to secure new funding and remain at the University.

The University will establish a Research Bridge Fund. The fund will be allocated \$70,000 for fiscal year 2016-17. These funds are to be used, at the discretion of the Provost, to support non-tenure track research faculty who would be terminated or experience a loss of FTE without such funding.

The Provost will convene a Research Bridge Fund Advisory Committee as soon as practicable following ratification of this Agreement. The advisory committee will include: non-tenure track research faculty member(s), principal investigator(s), institute director(s), other appropriate administrators and one additional Association member appointed by the Association. The advisory committee will provide advice to the Provost regarding the structure, criteria, application process and other details regarding the Research Bridge Fund.

It is the goal of the parties that the Research Bridge Fund be available at the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year. Once the Research Bridge Fund is available, if a research non-tenure track faculty member receives notice of termination of employment due to a loss of external funding, such termination will not become effective if an application for bridge funding is pending before the Provost.

At the end of fiscal year 2016-17, the Office of Academic Affairs will prepare a report regarding use and operation of the Research Bridge Fund and shall provide the report to the Association.

This LOA will sunset after the 2016-17 fiscal year unless extended by the parties during reopened bargaining on economic issues.

