

Principles for Research Space Allocation

I. Summary of Changes in the Research Space Allocation Procedures

We have examined the original space allocation algorithm and have consulted with the Faculty Senate Research Council. Based on the testing of the algorithm and our consultations with the Research Council we have modified the Research Space Allocation Formula. Currently we are still in the process of ensuring the accuracy of our data both in terms of who is identified as occupying specific space, and also in accurately determining the classification of space (i.e., type of research lab, classroom, office, etc.). The latter is particularly important for the expected visit of the Federal team as part of the University's F&A application. The Federal team will visit FIU either in January or February, and as part of the process will verify the University's research space utilization. Therefore, we will continue to work with Deans and Department Chairs to finalize an accurate data set of space use, and in the future will maintain and regularly update the information.

Below is a summary of the modifications that have been made to the originally proposed space allocation formula:

1. The formula was modified to give more weight to graduate student use of a faculty member's research laboratory (X 3).
2. Procedures for determining space reallocation have been modified to allow for space in excess of that allowed by the formula.
3. Units (College/Departments) will be charged rent for excess research space. However, if a unit can make a cogent argument for the use of research space in excess of that justified by the principles and formula, RUGS will consider covering up to half of the costs. There are qualitative factors that the units can best assess in decisions regarding research space. These include:
 - a. Publications directly derived from the use of research space
 - b. Contributions to the research ethos of a laboratory floor or group
 - c. Service contributions to the unit that may have reduced external funding activity
 - d. Contributions of an especially critical person that is in excess of the percent effort on specific grants or projects
4. The space allocation formula will not be applied to tenure earning faculty during the first three years of their faculty appointment. Subsequent to the third year review, the unit can request for RUGS to cover up to half of the annual rental costs for research space in excess of that provided for in the formula.
5. The money collected from the use of research space will be placed in a fund that will be used exclusively for strategic investments in research.
6. We have reconsidered the smoothing factor for external funding. The results of the analyses suggest that two years remain a reasonable time frame. The two year rent-free period would be available to faculty who have a previous record of at least five years of funding and who have regularly submitted grants for continuing funding in the period leading up to the need for "bridge" space.

II. Cost of Research Space & Responsibilities of Units (Colleges/Schools & Departments)

Because the qualitative factors in the matrix must be evaluated at the unit level we need a mechanism for units to demonstrate the value of these factors. In order to engage departments and colleges in this mechanism, and to make transparent the on-going cost of research space, RUGS has recently completed a detailed analysis of costs associated with research space at FIU. These data were gathered in support of our new F&A rate negotiation with the Federal Government. The direct costs of research space at FIU are \$47.57 per square foot. Of this total, \$22.09 is attributed to PO&M. RUGS will use this discounted rate (rounded to \$22/ft²) as a metric for the value of research space for a college/department in excess of that justified by the principles and formula.

This amount is the annual rental cost for the space. If a unit can make a cogent argument why they want to assign research space in excess of that justified by principles and formula, RUGS will consider covering up to half of the cost. If RUGS is not convinced of the rationale for the use of space, the unit will assume the full cost of the space. The unit can pay these costs from F&A return, auxiliaries, or E&G, as appropriate. Rent collection will begin January 1, 2008.

The money collected from this use of research space will be placed in a fund that will be used exclusively for strategic investments in research.

Space that is rented at the discounted rate may be transferred to another investigator who qualifies for that space based on the principles and formula.

III. Research Space Allocation Matrix

- The matrix presented below reflects the modifications to the original version described above. This matrix will serve as the basis for space allocation for faculty members.
- In general each dean is responsible for allocating space within his or her unit based on the matrix.
- The Vice President for Research is responsible for allocating space across schools and colleges in accordance with the matrix should there be college-level space allocation disparities.
- Deans signing off on proposals are committing to provide the needed space within their unit at the time the grant is awarded.

Research Space Allocation Matrix

Discipline	Total Annual External Direct Costs	Annual F&A obtained as percentage of annual direct costs	Annual FTE of Thesis or Dissertation Credit of students using the space	Tenured Faculty total score	Tenure Track – No requirement first three years. Then the following
Wet lab, Biology, medical, chemical	\$100,000 (1) \$200,000 (2) \$300,000 (3) \$400,000 (4)	10% (1) 20% (2) 30% (3) 40% (4)	1 (3) 2 (6) 3 (9) 4 (12)	6 = 1000 sq. ft.	3 = 1000 sq. ft.
Dry lab, computer, social sciences	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	10 = 1000 sq. ft.	5 = 1000 sq. ft.
Engineering and Physical Sciences needing large equipment space	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	4 = 1000 sq. ft.	2 = 1000 sq. ft.

Example prior to modification increasing weight for graduate students (X3):

- In the point categories, the scores would scale incrementally between the whole numbers given—e.g., an external award of \$175,000 annual direct costs carrying a 25% F&A carried out in a lab supporting 1.25 FTE thesis and dissertation credits would yield a score of 5.5 (1.75+2.5+1.25) and, for tenured faculty, would translate into:
 - 920 sq. ft. of wet lab space,
 - 550 sq. ft. of dry lab space, or
 - 1,375 sq. ft. of large equipment space.

Example subsequent to modification increasing weight for graduate students (X3):

- In the point categories, the scores would scale incrementally between the whole numbers given—e.g., an external award of \$175,000 annual direct costs carrying a 25% F&A carried out in a lab supporting 1.25 FTE thesis and dissertation credits would yield a score of 8 (1.75+2.5+3.75) and, for tenured faculty, would translate into:
 - 1,333 sq. ft. of wet lab space,
 - 800 sq. ft. of dry lab space, or
 - 2,000 sq. ft. of large equipment space.