



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

TO: Heather Daniels and Heather McFadden

FROM: Darrell Bazzell, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration *Darrell Bazzell*  
Marsha Mailick, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education *Marsha Mailick*  
Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs *Sarah C. Mangelsdorf*

RE: Academic Staff Assembly Resolution on Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Bridge Funding

DATE: January 2, 2015

We are writing in response to the report and resolutions offered by the Ad Hoc Committee on Bridge Funding and passed by the Academic Staff Assembly on November 10, 2014, and conveyed to us in your message of November 14, 2014.

Earlier this academic year, we requested updates from each of the Schools and Colleges regarding last year's Bridge Funding program, and these project-by-project updates have been very useful as we plan ahead for future years. Thank you for your patience while we reviewed these updates.

Through the bridge funding program implemented last year, we provided funding for faculty and staff PIs who had projects that were previously submitted for extramural funding and showed promise for future funding, or were pilot projects that were expected to generate data for an extramural grant submission. Among these were awards to academic staff. For example:

- School of Education (2 projects awarded to Researchers)
- The Waisman Center (1 project awarded to a Senior Scientist)
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (1 project awarded to a Senior Scientist)
- College of Letters and Science (1 project awarded to a Senior Scientist)
- School of Veterinary Medicine (1 project awarded to a Clinical Associate Professor)
- Nelson Institute (2 projects to Assistant Scientists, 1 project awarded to an Associate Scientist)
- College of Engineering (2 projects awarded to Senior Scientists, 1 to a Researcher)

We appreciate your comment about early career academic staff, and we note that the above list included Assistant and Associate Scientist level staff, as well as Senior Scientists and Researchers.

We believe that some of these projects supported salary for the academic staff PI, consistent with your recommendation.

We are strong supporters of the Permanent PI program, and hope that eligible academic staff continue to apply for Permanent PI status, and access bridge funding as well as other campus funding programs.

Unfortunately, we do not currently have a mechanism for tracking all bridge funding programs offered by Schools and Colleges, Departments, and Centers at the UW-Madison.

We are strongly committed to increasing and diversifying the sources of research funding for our university, and appreciate the very important role of academic staff research personnel in our success, especially during this difficult funding time.