

Valdosta State University STRATEGIC FOCUS 2010 PROPOSAL FORM

Submitted By: Robert Gannon

Date: 5-27-2009

Department/College/Division: Biology

Strategic Focus Standard (Select 1 or more)

Corresponding Assessment*

- Recruitment/Enrollment of Students → # of New Students: _____
- Retention & Graduation/Enrollment of Students → # of Additional Students Retained: 5
- Scholarship/Research → # of Scholarly Activities: 20
- Financial Solvency Resources → \$ Revenue/Savings: _____
- Develop New Academic Initiatives/Programs → # of New Students: _____

*This is the number or dollar value that is associated with the proposed project. Existing students and efforts should not be included in these figures; only additional students/scholarly activities/dollars (i.e. no double counting).

Brief Proposal Description:

Biology Award for Scientific Excellence (BASE)

BASE grants will be used to support freshman research projects within the Department of Biology. Studies have shown that engaging students in undergraduate research significantly improves retention. The Department has a 75 % retention rate from freshman to sophomore year, and we expect to keep all students supported by BASE grants (100 %). The availability of BASE grants next year will allow us to use this as a recruiting tool. This would be a novel program in Georgia.

Budget (Specify dollar amounts and elaborate as needed on summary page):

Item

- Staff # _____ Salary and Fringe \$ _____
- Travel \$ _____
- Operating \$ _____
- Equipment \$ _____
- Other \$ 40,000
- Space (office, lab, classroom, etc.) _____

Total \$ _____

Description

Funds are requested to provide 20 BASE grants to freshman working in the labs of 20 separate biology faculty (one freshman in each lab). Each BASE grant is in the amount of \$2,000 that will be supplement research costs for two semesters (\$1,000/semester). The goal is to retain all 20 students in this program, a gain of 5 students assuming the normal retention rate of 75 %. BASE grants are also proof-of-commitment by VSU that we could use to apply for an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) grant from the National Science Foundation.

Duration:

- One -Year
- Multi -Year (# of Years: _____)
- Indefinite

Supplemental Funding Sources (e.g, department operating budget)

Research costs will be supplemented by the Departmental budgets, intramural Faculty Research Grants and external research funding obtained by the faculty.

Schedule: Expected Time to Completion

Start Date: September 2009

End Date: May 2009

Assignment of Responsibility (name and title):

Primary: Robert Gannon, Professor and Head, Department of Biology

Secondary: _____


Additional Information:

[Empty box for additional information]

APPROVALS (Signatures)

Ranking of Proposal

This portion to be completed by approvers following the evaluation of the constituent group.

Approver	Signature	Rank	# of Proposals Forwarded
DEPARTMENT HEAD/DIRECTOR:		1	3
DEAN:			
DEANS' COUNCIL:			
VICE PRESIDENT:			
P&B COUNCIL:			