FIU Research Space Guidelines

I. Summary

FIU's Research Space Guidelines were developed in 2007. The development of the Guidelines involved examination of research allocation formulas in other universities, NIH, as well as internal discussions throughout the University, including deans and the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate's Research and Creative Activities Committee was involved in the discussions and negotiations that produced the final Guidelines.

There are six key principles in the Guidelines developed in 2007:

1) All research space is under the purview of Academic Affairs, not the colleges or departments.
2) When research space is "freed-up," it goes back to Academic Affairs for future re-allocation.
3) The Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) has the responsibility for managing research space in the University.
4) The research formula is evaluated annually by ORED.
5) The Vice President for Research may re-allocate excess research space to address needs related to new grants and/or new faculty. If excess space is not re-allocated, ORED charges the college for the cost based on the F&A cost agreement the University has with the Federal Government. If ORED determines that the excess space is needed, then the option of the college paying for the excess space is not accepted.
6) When research space is re-allocated, the faculty member occupying the space is provided a 6-month notice.

The key components of the formula are as follows:

1) Numerically, the amount of space allocated to faculty by the formula is based on research expenditures and graduate student factors associated with the individual faculty member. These are:

   Research Expenditure Factors:

   a. Total annual direct research expenditures from external grants
   b. Total annual F&A (overhead) research expenditures from external grants
   c. Up to the first $150K of expenditures, the direct and F&A totals are treated equally. Above $150K of expenditures directs and F&A are treated separately. This is an adjustment made in 2013.

   Graduate Student Factors:

   a. Number of annual dissertation and thesis credits as major professor

2) Type of Space is Considered in the Formula
   - The amount of space allocated differs by type of research. Specifically, there are three levels: (1) Engineering & Physical Sciences, (2) Wet Lab, Biology, Medical, Chemical, and (3) Dry Lab, Computer Sciences, Social Sciences. All other factors being equal, the amount of space is largest for Engineering & Physical Sciences, followed by the group of Wet Lab-Biology-Medical-Chemical, and the smallest space for Dry Labs.

3) Faculty Factors Considered in the Formula
   - All factors being equal, Assistant Professors get more space than tenured faculty.
   - The formula is not applied to Assistant Professors during their first three years. During the second three years, the formula charges 50% of the excess space cost for Assistant Professors. However, the respective dean and Vice President for Research may determine that the Assistant Professor is in a good research productivity path and the excess space may not be charged.

4) Timing & Factors Considered in Re-allocation of Excess Research Space
   a. Since the formula is based on research expenditures, each annual analysis is based on prior year productivity.
   b. When research space is re-allocated, the faculty member is given a 6-month notice.
   c. Given a & b above, a faculty member without external research expenditures can have up to 1.5 years without funding and still occupy the lab.
   d. Non-numerical factors are considered in the re-allocation of research space (e.g., pending research grants under review, sharing of research lab among several faculty, etc.).

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Research Allocation Table

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	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.