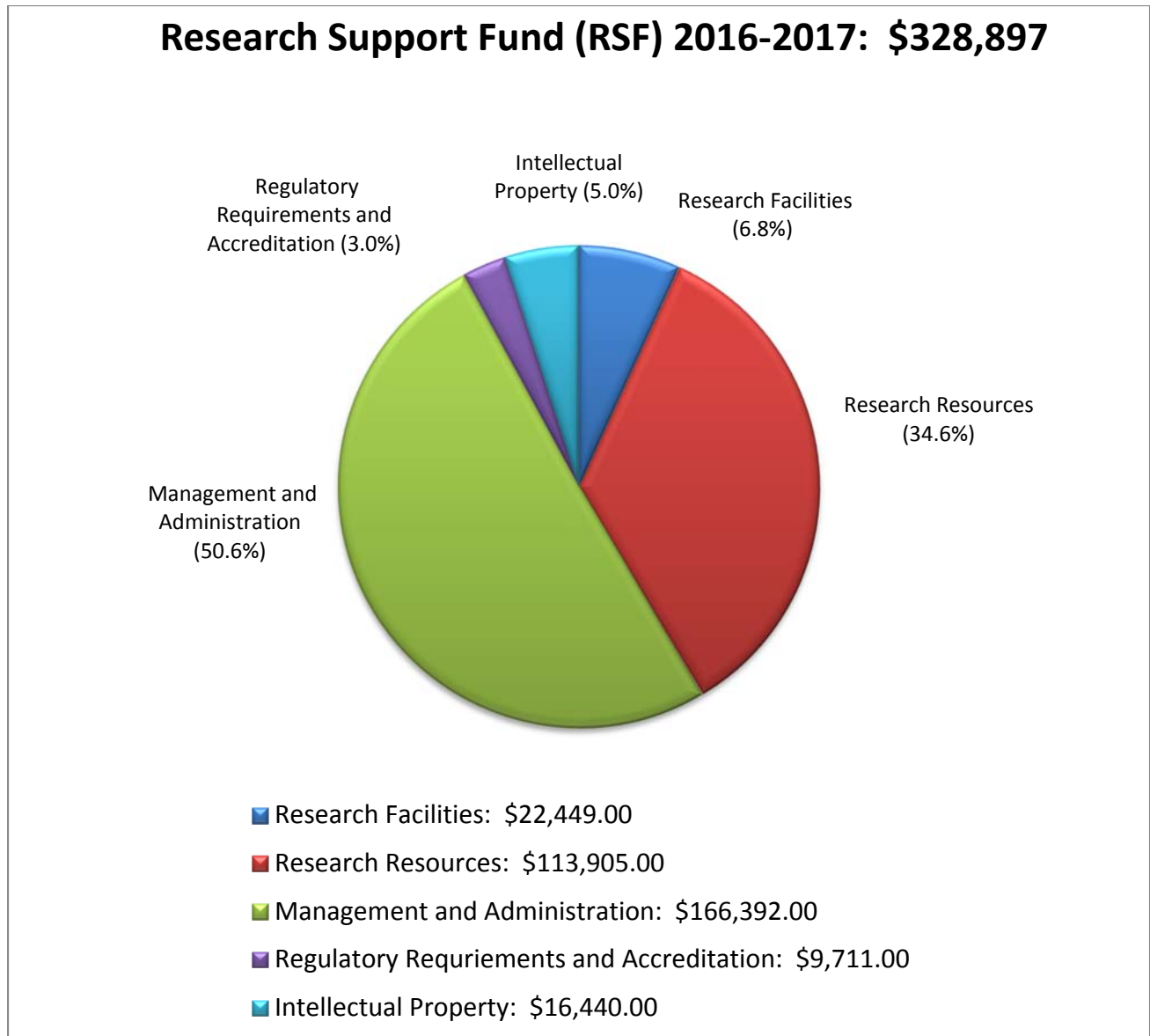


## Brandon University Research Support Fund (RSF) Report 2016-2017

In 2016-2017 Brandon University received \$328,897 from the Research Support Fund. The pie chart below represents the actual amounts allocated to each of the five categories this past year within our institution; this is followed by a summary report that includes the major expenses covered.



## 1. Research Facilities

### a. Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

- i. The RSF grant was used effectively to maintain the NMR facility and allowed researchers to use the infrastructure to carry out day-to-day synthetic chemistry research.
- ii. The RSF enabled Brandon University to maintain the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Physics Cluster lab on campus. There were hardware maintenance requirements, and software needed to be updated regularly. The cluster is used by members of the Physics Department, students, and post docs and also by individuals in Math and Computer Science

### b. Service Contracts

- i. The RSF covered service agreements for the maintenance and repair our freezer dryer, ultra-low temperature freezer, and autoclaves. These agreements allow the equipment to remain in working condition which is essential to the research conducted by senior students, technicians, and faculty members.

## 2. Research Resources

### a. John E. Robbins Library

- i. The RSF supported the John E. Robbins Library in two ways: 1) the infrastructure of the library in terms of computer software (Relais Interlibrary Loan software support/maintenance) and membership in national and regional consortia (the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries); and 2) the acquisition of digital research databases for faculty and students (SAGE Journals, Project Muse Journals, the Newspaper Source Plus Database from EBSCO and the Canadian Newsstand Database from ProQuest). Without the Relais software facilitating this access, researchers would not be able to make these requests online and would have to wait longer to receive them. Without access to databases, articles would be invisible to researchers, who would have no way of finding information about articles. These investments are vital for researchers because they give access to current research publications in a wide variety of fields, enabling researchers to stay current in their disciplines while supporting them to contribute to their fields through publication, editing, comments, etc.

### b. IT Services

- i. The RSF supported assisted IT Services to extend and provide improved operational support to researchers, improved access to network resources and collaboration technologies over a high speed network, and improved access to research tools. Our memberships with the Manitoba Research Network (MRnet) and Canada's Advanced Research and Innovation Network (CANARIE) allowed researchers the use of the high speed research network and established Brandon University as the hub for education and research for southwestern Manitoba.

### c. Other Consortia and Databases

- i. The ESRI ArcMap site license agreement that Brandon University participates in is arranged through a province-wide consortium called The Manitoba Educational

Geographic Information Consortium (MEGIC). ESRI is the developer of the most widely used GIS software in the world called ArcGIS, accounting for approximately 80% of the market share. It is used by faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students for research and instructions at universities worldwide. The site license was covered by the RSF and provided unlimited access to faculty and students in any department across our campus. ESRI ArcMap provides fundamental geospatial data management and analysis capabilities that are simply standard tools of the trade. Researchers across disciplines collect, manage, and analyze geospatial data as part of their research. Anyone conducting research of this nature would expect to have access to GIS software.

### 3. Management and Administration

- a. RSF funds covered the Manager of Research Services' salary and benefits, and a percentage of the Administrative Officer to the Vice-President (Academic and Provost) salary and benefits for research and regulatory support, and a portion of the Accountant's salary who manages research finances.
- b. The Manager and Accountant received support to attend Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) National Conference. The CAURA conference is vital to both positions in order to keep apprised of changes and updates, and to receive relevant training.
- c. Annual maintenance and upgrades to the ProcessPathways Romeo research grant tracking software was covered by the Research Support Fund.
- d. The RSF supported a Research Facilitator in the Faculty of Arts who enabled and encouraged the advancement of research at Brandon University. The Research Facilitator provided faculty members with a go-to person to assist with proposal writing, literature searches, and sourcing grant opportunities. The RSF investments greatly increased the awareness of the different modes of research and facilitated inter- and cross- disciplinary research connections as well as funding opportunities. The Research Facilitator provided faculty communication points and enhanced support resources to assist the Office of Research Services and Vice-President (Academic & Provost) in furthering the University's strategic research agenda.
- e. A new monthly publication produced internally at Brandon University was covered by the RSF. *Research Connections* has had a successful first year and showcased our talented researchers.

### 4. Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

- a. The animal care committee received funds to support the animal care function for things such as covering the University Veterinarian's fee-for-service that included animal care committee involvement, animal facility visits, and veterinary care services.
- b. Annual Biosafety storage cabinet inspection and certification was covered by the RSF, ensuring biosecurity and complying with provincial and national legislation in the safe storage of biological materials.

### 5. Intellectual Property

- a. RSF supported the intellectual property (IP) management function at Brandon University by covering a portion of the Manager of Research salary to administer agreements such as contracts, contribution agreements, and memorandums of understanding with industry and the private sector.

Brandon University continues to use the Research Support Fund to assist its researchers, facilities, and the general research function. Funding enabled research to take place with well-maintained state-of-the-art equipment in highly functioning laboratories and facilities, while contributing to the attraction and retention of researchers and the training of future highly qualified personnel (HQP). The Research Support Fund allowed Brandon University to redirect funds otherwise used to cover indirect research expenses to other institutional initiatives and needs. The Research Support Fund has been of great benefit to Brandon University.