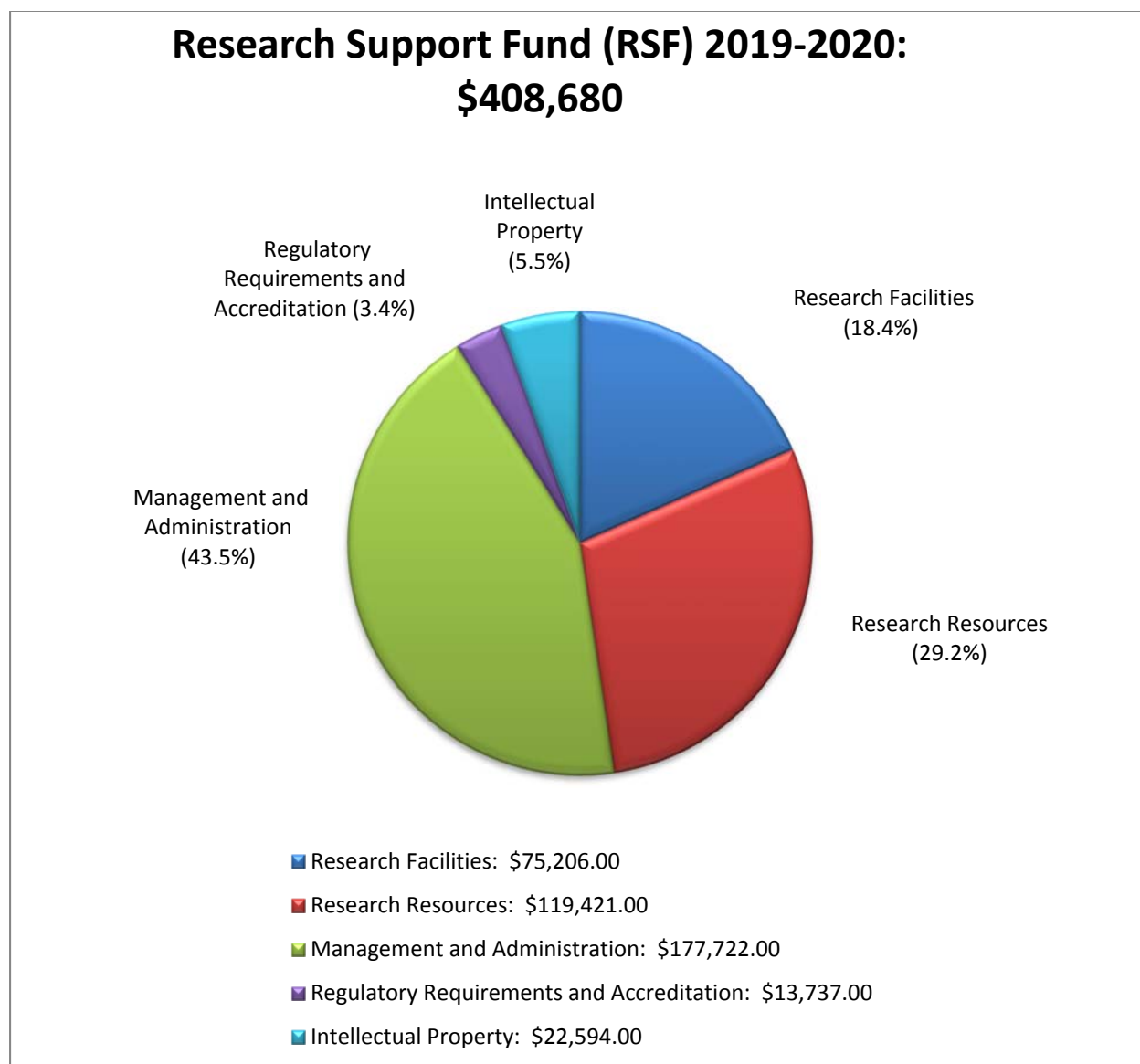


## Brandon University Research Support Fund (RSF) Report 2019-2020

In 2019-2020, Brandon University received \$408,680 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; 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. Other various minor repairs and maintenance expenses were also covered for equipment such as a microscope, water distiller, HPL suite, and utilities.
- iii. Repairs and maintenance were undertaken to an autoclave machine to get it up and running. This allowed researchers to use the machine and maintain safety measures and uphold compliance requirements while conducting research.

b. Service Contracts

- i. The RSF covered service agreements for the maintenance and repair our ultra-low temperature freezer and autoclaves. These agreements allow the equipment to remain in working condition that 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. Additionally, the Manitoba Hydro dark fibre maintenance fee was covered via the Research Support Fund.

### **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 & Provost) salary and benefits for research and regulatory support, and a portion of the Accountant's salary who manages research finances.
- b. The Office of Vice-President (Academic & Provost) undertook a search for a new Research Officer position. Recruitment expenses were covered under the RSF.
- c. Annual maintenance and upgrades to the ProcessPathways Romeo research grant tracking software were covered by the Research Support Fund.
- d. The RSF helped support the costs associated with the travel of Associate Vice-President (Research) to national research meetings and conferences.
- e. Support provided to the Brandon University Research Committee covered a research presentation event held during BU Homecoming Week. The event was well attended by faculty, students, alumni, and the public.
- f. The Research Support Fund enabled the continuation of the Brandon University Research Connection publication. The weekly publication highlights a different faculty member or student and is distributed to a broad range of internal and external stakeholders.
- g. Research Connection Booklet was compiled for external and internal distribution. The Booklet compiled a year's worth of Connection publications and compiled them into a booklet used for promoting Brandon University's research successes.

### **Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation**

- a. The animal care committee received funds to support the animal care function for things such as covering the University Veterinarians' fee-for-service that included animal care committee involvement, animal facility visits, veterinary care services, and memberships in Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) and American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).
- 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. Fume hood certification was covered as well as fees related to the disposal of research waste.
- c. The Research Support Fund covered membership in the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB) for the Chair of the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee.

### **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.

- b. A research technology transfer disclosure process was initiated with subsequent patent search. The fees for the process were covered via the RSF.

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.