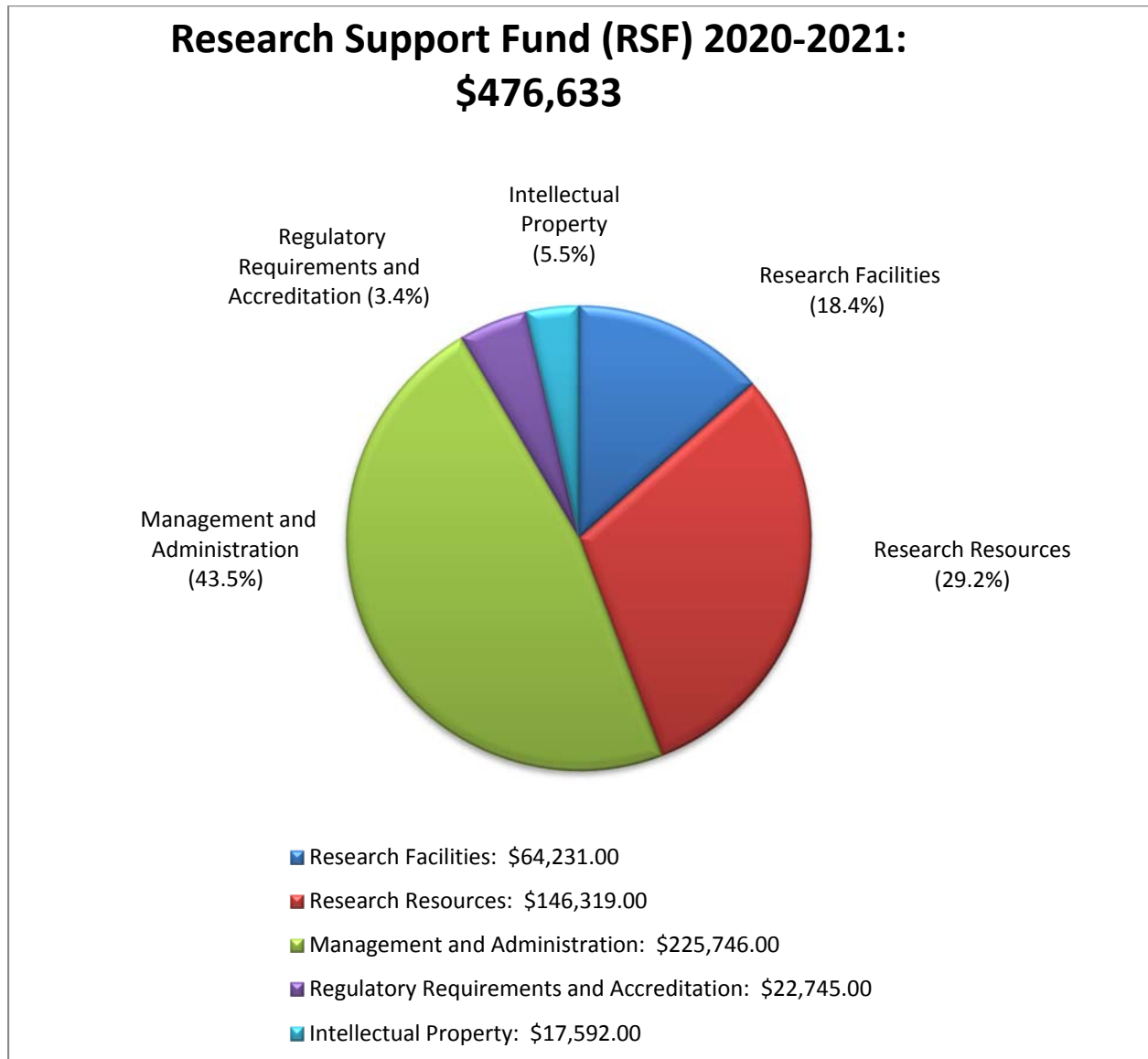


Brandon University Research Support Fund (RSF) Report 2020-2021

In 2020-2021, Brandon University received \$476,633 from the Research Support Fund. The pie chart below represents the actual amounts allocated to each of the five RSF 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 maintained 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, post docs, and researchers in Mathematics and Computer Science.
- iii. Repairs and maintenance were undertaken to an autoclave machine to get it up and running. This allowed researchers to use the autoclave and maintain safety measures and uphold compliance requirements while conducting research.
- iv. Science vivarium repairs and maintenance
- v. Other various repairs and maintenance expenses were also covered for equipment and facilities such as the vivarium, power supply to a central bench, and utilities.

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 Library through the maintenance of the Relais Interlibrary Loan software; membership in national and regional consortia such as the Canadian Research Knowledge Network; acquisition of digital research databases for faculty and students such as SAGE Journals, Project Muse Journals – Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL); and subscription to the Dataverse open source research data repository. Without the Relais software facilitating this access, researchers would not be able to make interlibrary 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 with their research programs and publication.
- ii. The Library digitized a number of newspaper, historical records, and oral histories, for research preservation.

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 Research Support Fund covered the Manitoba Hydro dark fibre maintenance fee.

3. Management and Administration

- a. RSF funds covered the Manager of Research Services' salary and benefits, and a percentage of the Executive Officer to the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) salary and benefits for research and regulatory support, and a portion of the Accountant's salary who manages research finances.
- b. Annual maintenance and upgrades to the ProcessPathways Romeo research grant tracking software were covered by the Research Support Fund.
- c. The RSF helped to cover the costs associated with the travel of Associate Vice-President (Research) to national research meetings and conferences.
- d. The Research Support Fund enabled the continuation of the Brandon University Research Connection publication. The bi-weekly publication highlights a different faculty member or student and is distributed to a broad range of internal and external stakeholders.
- e. A research management webinar and researcher podcasts facilitated by the Brandon University Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies (BU CARES) provided training to and dissemination opportunities to researchers, respectively .
- f. Brandon University collaborated with Springer Nature Journal to create an article highlighting our female Canada Research Chairs and their contributions to research.
- g. Brandon University received a Canada Research Charis Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Stipend to support an internal audit and assessment of current institutional EDI practices. The University contracted People First, a Winnipeg-based Human Resources organization, to lead the project. The stipend in combination with RSF support covered the cost of the contract for services. The results of the project provided an EDI baseline from which to build.
- h. The new Brandon University Strategic Research Plan was professionally printed.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

- a. Brandon University Animal Care Committee (BUACC)
 - i. 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).
 - ii. Various animal care facility upgrades, including the reverse osmosis system, humidifiers, freezers, storage, and water testing system.
- b. Brandon University Biosafety Committee (BUBC)
 - i. Annual Biosafety storage cabinets were inspected and certified, ensuring biosecurity and complying with provincial and national legislation in the safe storage of biological

materials. Fume hood certification was covered by the RSF as well as fees related to the disposal of research waste.

- c. Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (BUREC)
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Members of BUREC attended the virtual annual CAREB Conference, and received valuable training for their roles on the 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 and 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.