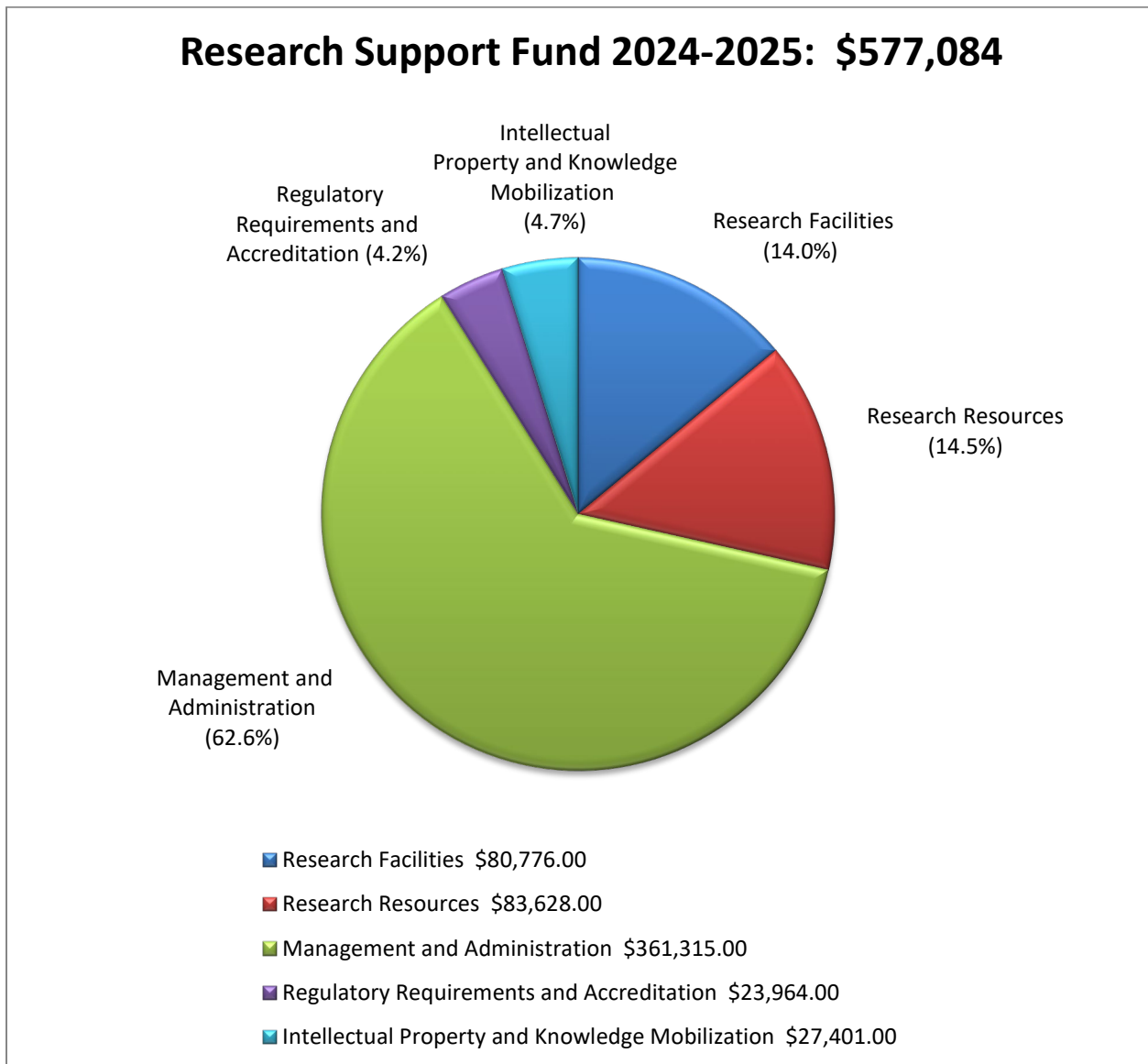


Brandon University Research Support Fund (RSF) Report 2024-2025

Brandon University received \$577,048 from the Research Support Fund in 2024-2025. Funding contributed to various initiatives on campus with the majority of funding going towards the Management and Administration category to sustain the salaries of those involved in the research administration process. The pie chart below represents the actual amounts allocated to each of the five RSF categories this past year, followed by a summary report that includes the major expenses covered. We are grateful to the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) for their continued support.



1. Facilities

- a. Knowledge Mobilization
 - i. Minor upgrades were made to the Knowledge Mobilization Suite to ensure the facility was operational and ready to use.
 - ii. A research Hall of Fame was created in the corridor of the Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies). The Hall now displays the names of faculty members and students who were awarded Tri-Agency funding.

- b. An autoclave was replaced in the Faculty of Science. The autoclave was needed to ensure continuity in the programs of research of faculty members and ensure compliance with biosafety and workplace safety and health requirements.

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; and acquisition of digital research databases for faculty and students such as SAGE Journals, Project Muse Journals – Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL). 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.

- 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.

- c. Memberships

Brandon University is a member of the organizations listed below that help to support our researchers and drive efforts forward.

 - i. Community-Based Research Canada (CBRC)

From the CBRC website: CBRC is a national champion and facilitator of community-based research excellence, a research approach addressing challenging societal problems. CBR Canada stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and is committed to upholding and working to advance the *Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. We are committed to the decolonization of knowledge and stand against all forms of

systemic injustice and racism in our society. We support the Black Lives Matter movement and all movements and organizations that align with our values.

- ii. Digital Research Alliance of Canada (DRAC)
From the DRAC website: DRAC serves Canadian researchers, with the objective of advancing Canada's position as a leader in the knowledge economy on the international stage. By integrating, championing, and funding the infrastructure and activities required for advanced research computing (ARC), research data management (RDM) and research software (RS), we provide the platform for the research community to access tools and services faster than ever before.
- iii. Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU)
From the website: Established in 2011, the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU) brings together small- and medium-sized comprehensive universities from across Canada. ACCRU strives to be the voice to discuss the challenges and issues that smaller universities face.
- iv. Conference Board of Canada
From the CBC website: The CBC aims to get their research into the hands of decision-makers - be they in government, business, or civil society—so that they can act on the best evidence and research in Canada. This is done by providing access to trusted research, data, and insights across economic, human resources, and the innovation landscape.
- v. Winnipeg Institute for Theoretical Physics (WITP)
From the WITP website: The WITP is the consortium of all the theoretical physicists within Manitoba and exists to support theoretical physics research in the province. It carries out this mandate by encouraging collaboration between members of WIPT and by financially supporting workshops, visiting colloquium speakers, and the sort and long-term visits of research collaborators of international standing.

3. Management and Administration

- a. The Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) and Office of Research Services Salaries and Benefits
 - i. 100% of the Manager, Research Services
 - ii. 100% of the Research Officer
 - iii. 100% of the Knowledge Mobilization Officer
 - iv. 50% of the Administrative Assistant to the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)
 - v. A portion of the Research Accountant's salary and benefits
 - vi. Research Connection administrative support
- b. Annual maintenance and upgrades to the Cayuse Romeo research grant tracking software were covered by the Research Support Fund.
- c. The Research Support Fund enabled the continuation of the Brandon University Research Connection. The bi-weekly publication highlights the research of a different faculty member or student or team of researchers and is distributed to a broad range of internal and external stakeholders. In addition to the salary and benefits of an administrative support position, the associated administrative costs to publish and mail out the publication were covered.

- d. Expansion of the Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) and associated furniture and supplies for the office
- e. The Office of Research Services hosted a well-attended research dissemination event during Homecoming week. Three-minute presentations were given on a variety of research projects to a broad audience. The event was made possible by the RSF and the RSF Program and Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) were publicly acknowledged.

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 and repairs, and the salary of student for weekend relief of facility operations.
 - iii. An honorarium was provided to the BUACC Community Representative.
- 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.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization

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

The Research Support Fund 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). Brandon University continued to use the Research Support Fund to provide researchers with the services and tools needed to conduct stellar research, including the salaries and associated expenses of the Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) and the Office of Research Services. 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