

Research Reboot Initiative

January 6, 2021

Q & A Session on the Implementation of the Program in the CNS

Outline

- 1 The program in a nutshell
- 2 Eligibility
- 3 Review process
- 4 Teaching release

Research Reboot Basics

The Research Reboot program

- is intended to help early stage faculty restart their research programs.
- offers the opportunity to apply for course release time to
 - tenure-track assistant professors, and
 - tenured associate professors

whose research trajectories have been disrupted by COVID-19's impact on professional and personal circumstances.

Important Dates

- January 22, 2021, 5pm CST: Applications due
- March 1, 2021: Decision notifications

Universal Criteria

The following three universal criteria will be used to select recipients of the Research Reboot award:

- 1 Evidence of a strong record of research, scholarly and creative accomplishments prior to COVID-19.
- 2 Sound, feasible research plan for use with the release time to start rebuilding the faculty member's research, scholarly and creative trajectory.
- 3 The magnitude of the professional disruption resulting from COVID's impact. This opportunity will be prioritized for those faculty members experiencing larger disruptions to their research, scholarship and creative accomplishments and trajectories.

In addition, for CNS applicants:

- Colleagues who are scheduled to teach a total of ≤ 2 courses over the two year period including academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23 are expected to consult the chair of their department before applying, to explore with them whether teaching release would be an effective way to reboot their research program.
- All applicants should work with the chair of their department to together identify timing of desired release, while adhering to constraints of the program and accommodating teaching needs of the department.

Additional UT constraints

- Tenured associate professors who are up for promotion in the current or next academic year are not eligible for a Research Reboot course release.
- Tenure-track assistant professors who are up for promotion in the current academic year are eligible for a Research Reboot course release if they are granted tenure.
- Tenure-track assistant professors who are up for promotion in the next academic year are eligible for a Research Reboot course release if they are granted tenure in the 2022-23 academic year. However, the course release must take place during the 2022-23 academic year.
- The course release time must occur at least one academic year (fall of the prior academic year or earlier) before the fall semester during which the candidate's case is considered for tenure/promotion.

An important note

A successful candidate is eligible for this award if COVID has had a negative impact on their research, irrespective of whether the proximate cause was personal or professional circumstances.

- The need criterion examines how this cause has affected their work, not the cause itself.
- The description of the negative impact of COVID should only include the negative professional outcome (e.g., reduced time available for research, delayed manuscript submission, delayed grant submission, canceled presentations, etc.) that demonstrates the impact.
- This description should not include COVID-related (personal or professional) circumstances that led to the negative outcome.

The evaluation of the proposals will be based on the impact and the recovery plan, not on the cause of the impact.

Review process in CNS

Two phases of the review:

- In the department
- In the Dean's Office

Review in the department - the committee

Applications from each department will be reviewed by the subcommittee (consisting of colleagues at the rank of Professor) of the full committee that performed the annual review during academic year 2020-21.

- This committee is to play an advisory role for the chair in the process of assessing Research Reboot applications.
- The committee will communicate ranked lists of the applications (separately for assistant and associate professors) to the department chair, accompanied by a brief review of each application in the context of the eligibility criteria.
- The committee will be encouraged to use the scale 0-1-2 for each of the three universal criteria, with
 - 0 reserved for not meeting the criteria requirement,
 - 1 meeting the requirement and
 - 2 exceeding the requirement.

Review in the department - the chair of the department

The department chair will review the applications, rank lists and feedback from the committee.

- The chair has the option of adjusting the ranking accompanied with a rationale.
- The chair will then submit the ranked lists of candidates and assessment of applications to the CNS Office of the Faculty Affairs, accompanied with the plan on when each candidate would take a release, if selected to receive this award.

Review in the college

The Dean in consultation with the CNS Associate Deans will review the ranked lists of applications for each of the CNS departments and will select the recipients of teaching release time.

Teaching release

- Faculty who are provided with Research Reboot awards will receive a fall or spring semester's release from organized teaching in academic year 2021-22 or 2022-23.
- CNS will not be offering summer support instead of teaching release.
- Faculty receiving course release cannot be recipients of other research leaves¹ during the same academic year or during the preceding or following semester of the previous/future year.

¹Note that Modified Instructional Duties program is not considered to be a research leave.

The website

For additional details (including the info on the application process) please see The Research Reboot Program website:

<https://provost.utexas.edu/initiatives/research-reboot/>