

Fall 2016

# Strategic Initiative Fund: FAQ

University of Washington Tacoma

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# Strategic Initiative Fund

## Charting Our Course: UW Tacoma's Strategic Plan



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

### What are Strategic Initiative Funds?

During each of the five years of [Charting Our Course](#), the Chancellor will commit a portion of the university's general operating budget to invest in initiatives that advance one or more of the plan's Impact Goals. Up to 50% of the Strategic Initiative Fund (SIF) will be available for multi-year investments (i.e. the funding will be renewed annually per the terms of the initiative's award letter). The remaining funds are available for one-time investments. While this is a competitive application process, collaboration with others is strongly encouraged.

### Where does the money to support Strategic Initiatives come from?

UW Tacoma builds its annual operating budget based upon the revenue it expects from tuition and state allocations. Some of that revenue is dedicated to fixed expenses that include salaries, benefits, established programs and maintenance. The remainder of the revenue is discretionary – meaning it is available for new uses that support our mission and priorities. Beginning in 2016-17, a portion of this discretionary revenue is devoted to *Charting Our Course* and the remainder will be allocated through the [campus budget process](#).

### How much funding is available?

The current funding cycle will award up to \$550,000 for efforts that launch during the 2016-17 or 2017-2018 academic years. Of this amount, \$300,000 will support multi-year initiatives. Some funding will be available immediately with the balance to be disbursed after July 1, 2017.

### What types of projects are eligible?

The Strategic Initiative Fund aims to support innovations, collaborations and efficiencies that help achieve *Charting Our Course's* Impact Goals and that demonstrate progress on the plan's success indicators. Funds may be used for salary and benefits, equipment, technology solutions, publications, planning and/or pilot projects, assessment efforts, professional development, events and more. Strategic initiatives must comply with all applicable Washington state, University of Washington and UW Tacoma policies.

### Who can apply for Strategic Initiative Funds?

All faculty, staff and students may apply. Students must have support from an academic or administrative unit so that funds can be used and accounted for per Washington state, University of Washington and UW Tacoma policies.

### What is the process for requesting funds?

The Strategic Initiative proposal process starts with YOU! The Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee (SPCC) invites students, faculty, and staff to submit their individual and/or team visions/ideas/projects that support *Charting Our Course's* Impact Goals. SPCC members will connect ideas and collaborators via brainstorming and consultation sessions, culminating in the development of formal proposals.



- Continued on reverse. -

## Notices of Intent – Creative Thinking Encouraged!

Due November 18, 2016

Notices of intent are brief descriptions of your idea to advance *Charting Your Course's* Impact Goals. The online submission form requests the following:

- Contact information for all proposers: name(s), UW e-mail address(es), and preferred phone numbers
- Brief description of your idea/vision/plan
- Is this a new initiative or is it building on an existing effort?
- Please identify the Strategic Impact Goals that your project will advance.

## Brainstorming/Consultations

November 21, 2016 – January 13, 2017

Impact Goal champions will contact and meet with proposers as appropriate to learn more about their vision, brainstorm ways to frame their ideas, facilitate connection among proposers with similar projects, and provide suggestions for completing the proposal process.

## Winter 2017 SIF Proposals

Due January 13, 2017

The Winter 2017 proposal form will be available by December 1, 2016. It will ask proposers to elaborate upon basic information provided in the Notice of Intent and to address the following:

- What is the purpose of the initiative and how will it advance one or more *Charting Our Course* Impact Goals?
- How will you assess the success of this initiative? Please specify how your evaluation approach aligns with *Charting Our Course* success indicators?
- In what ways does the initiative incorporate approaches not currently being taken at UW Tacoma and/or build upon existing efforts in creative ways?
- What best practices, theories and/or existing efforts inform the design of your initiative?
- If the initiative involves collaboration among multiple units and/or with community partners, please indicate which offices / agencies are involved?
- What is the timeline for this initiative and what are its key milestones?
- Will the initiative also have support from other sources (e.g. existing UW Tacoma funds, partners' investments, grant funding, etc.)
- Statement of support from external partners, if applicable
- Approval from supervisor & unit head. For students, approval from sponsoring unit.
- All SIF proposals will require a detailed budget.

## How will initiatives be evaluated?

The SPCC will assess initiatives based upon the criteria noted above and elaborated upon in the Strategic Initiative proposals. When prioritizing initiatives the SPCC aims to balance: pilot initiatives with opportunities to build the capacity of existing, plan-aligned work; progress across multiple Impact Goals, and collaborative efforts where leadership is shared.

## What is the decision-making process and timeline?

The SPCC will review proposals and submit a prioritized list to the Chancellor. The Chancellor will make final funding decisions in consultation with the Executive Budget Committee and the Chancellor's Cabinet. Final decisions will be made by mid-March. Allocations for 2017-2018 will be preliminary pending the outcome of the UW budget process.