



Report on Research Support Fund Objectives 2019-20

In 2019-2020, Brock University allocated its Research Support Fund (RSF) funding in the following five areas:

Facilities (6.1%): The RSF was used to update laboratory space to meet urgent needs of researchers. A portion of these funds were used to support the ongoing maintenance of an institutional website to profile the research enterprise and build research partnerships.

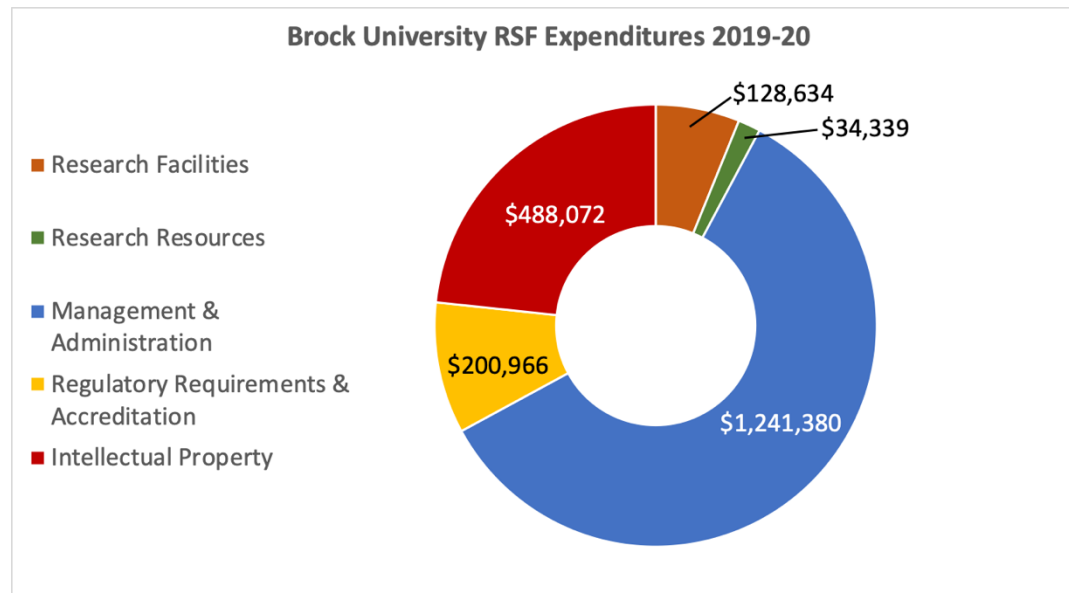
Resources (1.6%): RSF funds were provided to support licensing of tools that accelerate the research process by integrating funding, collaborator discovery, and publishing opportunities (Pivot). These tools connect researchers to financial support by leveraging the most comprehensive global source of sponsored funding opportunities and provides scholarly profiles to match researchers with financial partners and collaborators. Additionally, licenses for a research survey instrument were purchased to enable researchers across campus to collect critical data (Qualtrics).

Management and Administration (59.3%): RSF funds are a key component of the Office of Research Services' budget, which provides researchers access to professional staff to assist them with grant writing and to oversee their financial compliance and reporting. In 2019-20, funding was used to procure an electronic research administration system to improve overall efficiency and client service, to hire additional research services staff and support operations.

Regulatory requirements and Accreditation (9.6%): The operation of the Research Ethics Board, the Animal Care and Use Committee, and Research Safety are funded through funds from the RSF program. Funding is also used to support further development and advancement of training programs for users of animal care services.

Intellectual property and Commercialization (23%): RSF funds have allowed Brock University to meet rapidly expanding needs in the fields of intellectual property, patenting, technology transfer, and commercialization. Funding received in 2019-20 supported the salaries of staff who build research partnerships between Brock researchers, industry and community groups and develop identify avenues for the commercialization of new technologies. Funding also supported operational costs for the Innovation and Commercialization team.

The total RSF funding received by Brock University in 2019-20 was \$2,093,391



Statement of Research Fund Objectives and Indicators 2019-20

Eligible Expenditure Category	Output (Investment or Expense of RSF Grant Funds)	Performance Objectives	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Outcome Reported
Research Facilities	6.1% (\$128,634) of the RSF was used to support upgrades to research space, support equipment operations and to maintain a research website	Improved sustainability and efficiency of research equipment Maintenance of an institutional website for research communications and partnership building, including launch of a new Brock 'connect' platform.	Number of research equipment supported Number of visitors to the research services website Number of partnership prospects identified through the Brock connect web platform	Support for 5-10 major pieces of equipment An increase of 10% in web traffic (internal and external) 25% increase in partnerships explored	RSF funds supported the following research equipment upgrades and maintenance: \$11,500 for an NMR probe, \$13,634 for research computer systems, \$80,000 for a CyroRaman system, \$21,500 for equipment used in the operation of CL3 laboratory, \$2,000 for a laser vacuum pump. There were 8,547 visitors to the external facing Brock Research Enterprise website in 2019-20, including a 40% increase in visits to our Find the Answer researcher profiles and a 33% increase in visits to the CRC related pages. Our internal site has now reached about 55,000 visits. The Brock Connect platform was launched (link). In 2019-20 there were 20 new partnerships with industry or community groups linked to the platform.
Research Resources	1.6% (\$34,339) of the RSF grant was used to support software licensing, namely; a	Enhanced support for researchers in finding external funding, collaborators and	Number of users of Pivot and Qualtrics resources	Increased usage of Pivot funding database and	\$9,245 of RSF funding was used to renew the ProQuest Pivot license. This system allows researchers to search an array of funding opportunities. In

	funding/collaborator and publication databases (Pivot) and the licensing of survey tool instruments	publication opportunities through the use of Pivot database Sustained usage of Qualtrics software for research survey design and implementation		sustained usage of Qualtrics survey tool	2019-20 there were 885 registered users of the database from Brock. \$25,094 of RSF funds were used to renew the site license for the Qualtrics survey tool. The tool is available to all faculty, staff and students at Brock. The platform is known to be used widely by researchers at Brock.
Management & Administration of Institutions Research Enterprise	59.3% (\$1,241,380) of the RSF envelope was used for the salary of research officers, accounting and other research support staff who provide core services to Brock researchers, and operations. Funding was used for the purchase of an electronic research administration system to improve efficiency.	Improved administrative efficiency with the introduction of the research administration system Improved support from research services staff in the preparation of grant applications and administration post award	Number of applications to external granting programs Time savings for researchers and staff as a result of improved efficiency	5 – 10% increase in the number of applications to external agencies Time savings / reduced administrative burden as reported by researchers through survey	A Research Administration System (RAS) was purchased from eVision. The customizable system is currently in development to align with Brock processes and is expected to be deployed in 2021-22. A total of 145 applications for external research funding to all agencies and sponsors were made in 2019-20. This is on par with the previous year. However, in 2019-20 the total value of awarded grants increased by about \$2.7M or 23%. Researchers have reported greater success receiving grants and are more satisfied with the level of service provided by a growing staff complement in the research enterprise.
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	9.6% (\$200,966) of the RSF fund was used to support the operation of the Research Ethics Board (REB), the Animal Care and Use	On-going operations of the REB, animal care committee and research safety boards	Timely support of researchers using the services of the boards Sustained compliance record and maintenance of	Increased user satisfaction with board/office services No breaches in compliance or change in accreditation	The REB, ACC and research safety teams continued to provide exemplary service to the research community and no breaches in compliance have been reported. Additionally, RSF funding has been used to support upgrades to the

	Committee, and Research Safety		existing accreditations for animal care		environmental control monitoring system of the animal care facility.
Intellectual Property	23% (\$488,072) of the RSF was used to offset staff salaries in the Innovation and Commercialization branch and its operations.	Improved support to researchers seeking to commercialize technologies or build research partnerships	Client satisfaction as is evidenced through survey response Number of research partnerships	Increase in client satisfaction with services provided by the Innovation and Commercialization team Increase in number of research partnerships with industry and community groups	In 2019-20 we have added additional staff, including dedicated legal counsel in research services. This has allowed for faster processing of research contracts, NDAs IP disclosures and assignments. These extra resources have also allowed for a more detailed assessment of Brock's patent portfolio and commercialization options. Brock currently maintains 29 patent families and the RSF helps to defray the costs of this maintenance. The number of partnerships formalized through collaborative research agreements or non-disclosures has been comparable to last year. A greater emphasis on the Brock Connect platform will cultivate new partnerships and opportunities for IP commercialization.