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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION GPC Chairs

FROM Jeff Derksen, Dean and Associate
Provost of Graduate and Postdoctoral
Studies

DATE September 30, 2019

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RE: SCORE Program

SCORE: Strengthening the Core (2019-20)

Fund for Innovation in Graduate Education (Deadline Nov 15, 2019)

Strengthening SFU's core (existing) graduate programs is crucial for enhancing our graduate education and we recognize that small amounts of financial resources can support the reflection and experimentation necessary to respond effectively to the changing environment of graduate education.

The **goal** of this initiative is to encourage faculty to scrutinize long-existing practices and test new approaches for graduate education in their academic units to address programmatic challenges. Academic units are invited to submit proposals for projects that identify a pressing programmatic challenge, a plan for addressing the issue and assessing its effectiveness, and a budget.

Types of projects could include:

- improving communication between faculty advisors and students;
- rethinking curricular requirements in light of knowledge change in the field and related fields;
- teaching students to ask better questions, to take risks in their research, or to work collaboratively in new ways;
- reconsidering the preparation for doctoral students who will embark on academic careers;
- better preparing doctoral students for non-academic career paths;
- experimenting with more extensive mentoring practices that include partners;
- re-thinking primary objectives and requirements for the master's degree.
- tracking career placements of previous students

Funds can be used for example to conduct a curriculum review, create new seminars or workshops, provide faculty development, host conferences that focus on cutting-edge practices

in doctoral education, enable internships in the community, establish mentoring networks. Funds may also be used for departmental retreats, external consultants, site visits to other campuses, or graduate student project assistants.

Application Information

SCORE FUNDS

To apply for SCORE funding, please submit the following in **PDF format** via email to the Dean and Associate Provost of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (gsdean@sfu.ca).

Proposals should be a maximum of 3 pages and are due Nov 15, 2019. They should include:

- 1. Name and academic unit of the applicant(s).**
- 2. Provide a brief summary of the project.**
- 3. A brief project description** answering the following questions:
 - **Which challenge will be the focus?** Why is this timely and relevant for this discipline and department? What do you hope to achieve by the conclusion of the project?
 - **What plan of action is proposed?** What do you intend to do? Recognizing that plans will evolve, what is the timeline for planning and implementation? Who is leading the project?
 - **How will you evaluate the success of your work?**
- 4. Outline and schedule of activities.**
- 5. Expected outcomes.**
- 6. A brief budget request.**

Projects will be awarded up to \$5,000.

Projects must be completed by the end of August 2020. A final brief report will be required by the end of October 2020 and units may be asked to make a presentation to a SGSC meeting or to a Grad Chairs meeting.