The University Grants Academy (UGA)
Background and context

• From Provost’s funds allocated for stimulating and supporting RSCA
• SJSU UGA
  – An intensive year-long experience for a select group of faculty designed to support them through the process of writing a substantial external grant
• Based on the CASA Grants Academy and lessons learned in the UGA AY 15-16
Grants Academy Elements

• .2 release time for one semester
• Workshops focused on steps in the process of grant-writing
• Working sessions with campus experts and mentors
• Structure providing support and accountability
• Proposal reviews by external senior scholars
• Editing and statistical consultation as needed
Fall Workshops

• Open to all faculty
• In person, first hour to be recorded and available on-line subsequent to the event
• Subset of workshops required for Academy participants
• First hour information, second hour workshop resulting in product
• Reviews of products by campus experts available
Consulting Sessions

- Held in Spring
- Just for Academy participants
- Participant review information/instruction in advance
- Canvas as communication tool
- Assignments, discussion, accountability
- Consultation with campus experts and mentors
But does it work?

• 80% of participants completed a full grant proposal for a specified funder by the end of the Spring semester
• As of August 31, 48% (12 of 25) formally submitted proposals worth over 4 million $ to funders, and another 6-8 are pending submission windows
But does it work?

• After the UGA, the majority of participants considered themselves “completely capable” of locating a funder, drafting a budget, and writing a strong proposal narrative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Average before</th>
<th>Average after</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locate a funder</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft budget &amp; justification</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write strong proposal narrative</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit through auxiliary</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact program officer</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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An amazing experience
I have learned a lot
Enjoyed all workshops and services/resources
Really appreciate the UGA
Fantastic!
a tremendous opportunity
such a positive experience
would recommend it without hesitation
a great opportunity
highly recommend participating
really helpful
Without the UGA activity, I would never have a submission ready proposal now
I would definitely recommend taking UGA
now I feel more confident with the proposal writing.
a powerful experience
an absolutely necessary opportunity
A very worthwhile program
Extremely supportive and highly informative in so many ways!
But does it work?

“You may know the basics and the overall process (of grantwriting), however, there are so many small but very important, details here and there that you will learn in the academy. It is very well organized and well structured and the organizers are extremely helpful. It really pushed me to do what I wanted to do; to put together a complete draft of my proposal, something I might not have gotten the chance to accomplish with my regular load during the semester and might have postponed again and again. There is a certain level of accountability as well as flexibility that I found helpful.”
Requirements

• Attend 2 or more Fall RSCA info sessions
• Participate in 4 or more Spring working sessions
• Complete and submit a full proposal aimed at specific funder
• Engaged participation, attendance at writing sessions as needed
• Aim for moderate to large grant for the field
Application Process

• Application (Chair’s and Dean’s signature)
• CV
• 2 pg Proposal Narrative
  – RSCA agenda
  – Introduction to problem/issue
  – Project description
  – Cost estimate and potential funders (if known)
  – Timeline

• **DEADLINE 5PM SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 via email to amy.dandrade@sjsu.edu**
Criteria

- Clarity and completeness of proposal
- Clarity and strength of RSCA agenda and fit of project within that agenda
- Evidence of ability to complete project
- Fit of faculty interests and needs with goals of UGA
  - Not have received major external grant
  - Interested in the learning experience
Questions?

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