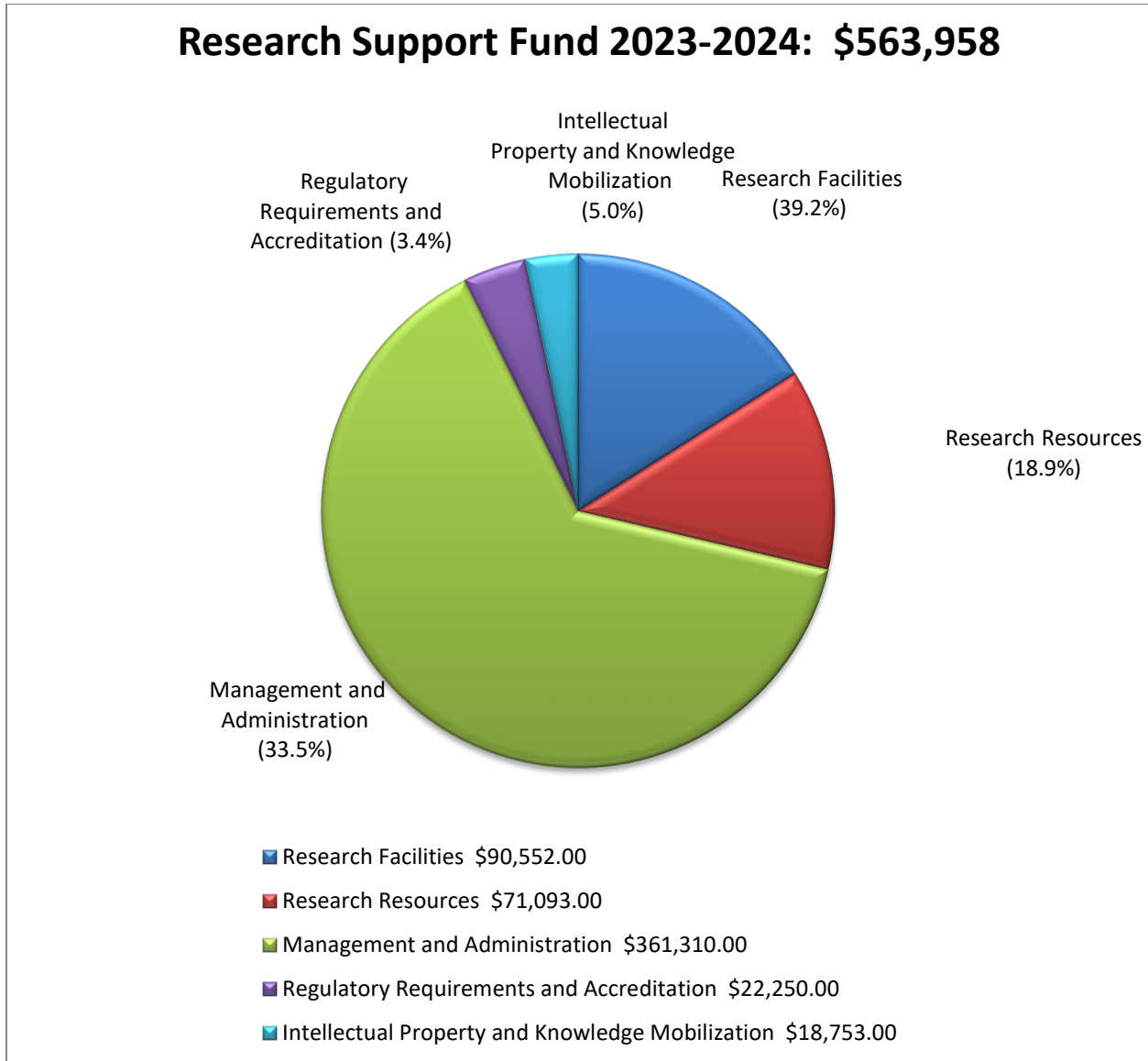


Brandon University Research Support Fund (RSF) Report 2023-2024

In 2023-2024, Brandon University received \$563,958 from the Research Support Fund. The pie chart below represents the actual amounts allocated to each of the five RSF categories this past year within our institution, followed by a summary report that includes the major expenses covered.



1. Facilities

- a. Operations and Maintenance (O&M)
 - i. The RSF grant maintained the NMR facility and allowed researchers to use the infrastructure to carry out day-to-day synthetic chemistry research.
 - ii. The RSF enabled Brandon University to maintain the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Physics Cluster lab on campus. There were hardware maintenance requirements, and software needed to be updated regularly. The cluster is used by members of the Physics Department, students, post docs, and researchers in Mathematics and Computer Science.
 - iii. Utilities were covered for research facilities on campus.
- b. Creation of the new Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)
 - i. Furniture and supplies for the office
- c. Purchase and installation of signage for a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) research facility, i.e., the Breast Cancer and Molecular Research Laboratory.

2. Research Resources

- a. John E. Robbins Library
 - i. The RSF supported the Library through the maintenance of the Relais Interlibrary Loan software; membership in national and regional consortia such as the Canadian Research Knowledge Network; and acquisition of digital research databases for faculty and students such as SAGE Journals, Project Muse Journals – Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL). Without the Relais software facilitating this access, researchers would not be able to make interlibrary requests online and would have to wait longer to receive them. Without access to databases, articles would be invisible to researchers who would have no way of finding information about articles. These investments are vital for researchers because they give access to current research publications in a wide variety of fields, enabling researchers to stay current in their disciplines while supporting them with their research programs and publication.
- b. IT Services
 - i. The RSF supported assisted IT Services to extend and provide improved operational support to researchers, improved access to network resources and collaboration technologies over a high-speed network, and improved access to research tools. Our memberships with the Manitoba Research Network (MRnet) and Canada's Advanced Research and Innovation Network (CANARIE) allowed researchers the use of the high-speed research network and established Brandon University as the hub for education and research for southwestern Manitoba. Additionally, the Research Support Fund covered the Manitoba Hydro dark fibre maintenance fee.
- c. Memberships

Brandon University became members of two organizations that help to support our researcher and the research function.

 - i. Community-Based Research Canada (CBRC)

From the CBRC website: CBRC is a national champion and facilitator of community-based research excellence, a research approach addressing challenging societal

problems. CBR Canada stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and is committed to upholding and working to advance the *Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. We are committed to the decolonization of knowledge and stand against all forms of systemic injustice and racism in our society. We support the Black Lives Matter movement and all movements and organizations that align with our values.

- ii. Digital Research Alliance of Canada (DRAC)
From the DRAC website: DRAC serves Canadian researchers, with the objective of advancing Canada's position as a leader in the knowledge economy on the international stage. By integrating, championing, and funding the infrastructure and activities required for advanced research computing (ARC), research data management (RDM) and research software (RS), we provide the platform for the research community to access tools and services faster than ever before.
- iii. Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU)
From the website: Established in 2011, the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU) brings together small- and medium-sized comprehensive universities from across Canada. ACCRU strives to be the voice to discuss the challenges and issues that smaller universities face.

3. Management and Administration

- a. Salaries and Benefits
 - i. 100% of the Manager, Research Services' salary and benefits were covered by the RSF.
 - ii. 100% of the Research Officer's salary and benefits were covered by the RSF
 - iii. 100% of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) salary and benefits were covered by the RSF.
 - iv. 30% of the Executive Officer to the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) salary and benefits was covered by the RSF for research and regulatory support.
 - v. A portion of the Accountant's salary for management of research financial matters was covered by the RSF.
- b. Annual maintenance and upgrades to the Cayuse Romeo research grant tracking software were covered by the Research Support Fund.
- c. RSF support was used to hire consultants to help create an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan and accompanying Action Plan. Funds were supplemental to a Canada Research Chairs Program EDI Stipend received to support this initiative.
- d. The Research Support Fund enabled the continuation of the Brandon University Research Connection publication. The bi-weekly publication highlights a different faculty member or student and is distributed to a broad range of internal and external stakeholders.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

- a. Brandon University Animal Care Committee (BUACC)
 - i. The animal care committee received funds to support the animal care function for things such as covering the University Veterinarians' fee-for-service that included animal care committee involvement, animal facility visits, veterinary care services,

and memberships in Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) and American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).

- ii. Various animal care facility upgrades and repairs.

- b. Brandon University Biosafety Committee (BUBC)
 - i. Annual Biosafety storage cabinets were inspected and certified, ensuring biosecurity and complying with provincial and national legislation in the safe storage of biological materials. Fume hood certification was covered by the RSF as well as fees related to the disposal of research waste.

- c. Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (BUREC)
 - ii. The Research Support Fund covered membership in the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB) for the Chair of the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization

- a. RSF supported the intellectual property (IP) management function at Brandon University by covering a portion of the Manager, Research salary to administer agreements such and contracts, contribution agreements, and memorandums of understanding with industry and the private sector.

Brandon University continues to use the Research Support Fund to operate the Office of Research Services, upkeep facilities, support the Animal Care and Research Ethics committees, assist the Library and IT Services, and to maintain the general research administration function. Funding enabled research to take place with well-maintained state-of-the-art equipment in highly functioning laboratories and facilities, while contributing to the attraction and retention of researchers and the training of future highly qualified personnel (HQP). The Research Support Fund allowed Brandon University to redirect funds otherwise used to cover indirect research expenses to other institutional initiatives and needs. The Research Support Fund has been of great benefit to Brandon University.