The College of Engineering plays a vital role in the university’s successful research enterprise, and we are tasked with increasing our research funding moving forward. Upon the recommendations of the College of Engineering Research Advisory Committee, I want to share with you a number of new research and award incentives and initiative updates, that may provide you further assistance and help ensure that our college community continues to innovate solutions that establish our prominence as a leading research institution in an evolving world.

**College research incentive program** – In 2012, the college established a research incentive program that returns to the faculty member 20% of the portion of the nine-month salary that is covered by a grant(s). In addition, beginning FY 2016, the College will enhance this program by providing another 30% of the portion of the nine-month salary that is covered by a grant(s) to the PI’s Research and Development (R&D) account. For more information on this, please send an inquiry to Lara Trocchio, College of Engineering senior director of business affairs, at LaraTrocchio@wayne.edu.

**Develop multidisciplinary working groups and proposals** – Per our strategic plan, the college has identified several areas of research excellence—healthcare and biomedical engineering, automotive safety, big data and business analytics, advanced materials and manufacturing, transportation, engine optimization/Center for Automotive Research, and green energy and sustainability—and already has had cluster hires in some of these areas. A number of these multidisciplinary groups are already meeting, planning symposia, workshops, and other initiatives. For the PI of a large group proposal effort (around $2 M) in one of the strategic areas, and upon the recommendation of the department chair, the PI will receive one course load reduction for the proposal preparation and submission. Chairs should provide a copy of their approved course-release memo to the Dean (via Jennifer Launer, fv9182@wayne.edu) for tracking purposes.

**Publications in high impact journals and conference proceedings** – Participating departments may award faculty members $500 to their R&D accounts for each publication in a high impact journal or conference proceedings (defined as the top 25% journal/conference proceedings in the field, based on journal ranking of Journal Citation Reports http://admin-apps.webofknowledge.com/JCR/JCR?RQ=HOME). Departments may choose to set their own criteria and limit the number of awards given per year.

**College of Engineering Faculty Research Excellence Awards** – Research Excellence Awards were newly established to recognize distinguished research accomplishments of our faculty members. Up to two awards will be presented annually to tenured faculty and up to one award to tenure-track faculty. The award will consist of $2,000 along with a recognition plaque to be presented during the annual College of Engineering Night of the Stars.

Thank you for your continued hard work. Please let me know if you have any questions. Best regards,

Farshad Fotouhi
Dean, College of Engineering