



## **WeR1: Investing in Faculty Success Faculty Scholarship Time (FaST) – Spring 2025**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2021, the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), in collaboration with Academic Affairs and ADVANCE at UNM, launched an institutional initiative to support main campus faculty navigating the post-pandemic world. UNM data show that during the pandemic, faculty members spent less time on research, scholarship, and related professional development as they revised teaching, supported students, and dealt with new demands in their home lives. As we transition out of the pandemic, the WeR1 Faculty Success Program seeks to continue supporting UNM faculty in new and creative ways, recognizing longer-lasting impacts from the pandemic. This RFP is part of a series of initiatives designed to invest in faculty success with a focus on enhancing research and scholarship activities.

**DESCRIPTION:** The FaST program enhances capacity to “level-up” research, scholarship, and creative activities by reducing teaching loads for tenure-track and tenured faculty. Examples of leveling-up one’s research include, but are not limited to:

- Making progress on or finishing a book;
- Directed research development activities such as collaboration building, proposal development, or extended community engagement;
- Data collection and/or analysis;
- Manuscript preparation; and/or
- Preparing for an exhibition, performance, or concert.

Although some preference is afforded to non-tenured, tenure-track faculty close to major T&P milestones, FaST also prioritizes jump-starting associate professors who feel stalled on their path toward promotion and supporting tenured faculty to develop and lead large-scale and/or interdisciplinary proposals.

FaST assistance is intended to support activities with meaningful career impacts, like helping Assistant and Associate Professors avoid delays in applying for tenure and/or promotion. FaST provides funding for a one-semester, one-course reduction in the applicant’s teaching load *or* support for a graduate project assistant (PA) to assist with course-related duties (grading, office hours, preparation of course materials, etc.). Faculty are expected to continue their service assignments during the semester in which they receive a course release and must discuss their application with their Department Chair before submitting.

Preference will be given to faculty:

- who are close to major T&P milestones;
- with significant teaching loads (e.g., high enrollment lab sections, number of assigned 3-credit-hour courses per semester, etc.);
- who have not previously received a FaST award.

**ELIGIBILITY & CONDITIONS:** UNM Main Campus tenure-track and tenured faculty in all disciplines are eligible to apply. **Other forms of leave cannot be used in the same semester as a FaST award.** FaST award recipients from the past two years are not eligible to apply.

Applicants must discuss their proposal with their Department Chair *before* submitting. Department Chairs and Deans must approve requests and will be consulted if multiple faculty members are selected from one department. Faculty who request a course release will be automatically considered for the graduate PA teaching support component if departmental teaching needs cannot support a course release.

Eligible faculty must have submitted all reports and requirements from other OVPR WeR1 awards (e.g., FaST, PERC, SuRF).

**ALLOWABLE COSTS:** This program has historically provided a maximum award of around **\$5,300**, to be transferred directly to the faculty member's department for disbursement. Faculty may request either:

1. **Course Release:** To pay a part-time instructor to cover the course; *or*
2. **Teaching Support:** For a graduate student Project Assistant for 10 hours/week for 16 weeks plus the cost of health insurance per UNM OAP policy and rates.

*Applicants do not need to specify the dollar amount requested, just the mechanism of support. Awards will be adjusted, as needed, to comply with negotiated salary rates and the Collective Bargaining Agreements. If a specific department's TPT rate exceeds the standard award amount, the WeR1 Steering Committee will work with the department/school to address the gap. No other costs are allowed.*

**APPLICATION MATERIALS:** The following application materials must be submitted through the InfoReady Review portal.

- **Applicant information (e.g. name, contact, affiliation)**
- **Dates of previous and/or planned research semesters or sabbaticals**
- **Anticipated or actual mid-probationary or tenure date**
- **Previous WeR1 application information**
- **Project Title**
- **Brief Project Description** (To be uploaded as a separate document; **1.5-page maximum**). Be sure to including the following sections with headings:
  - **Overview:** A concise description of the proposed project that does not use overly specialized language or jargon. Consider what is achievable during a single semester with a one-course reduction in teaching.
  - **Objectives:** The progress that this support will facilitate and anticipated concrete outcomes, achievable by the end of the semester of the FaST award (e.g., book will be published, manuscript/grant proposal submitted, etc.).
  - **Schedule:** Detailed, time-based plan for achieving the objectives above. Provide estimated timelines for achieving specific tasks in relation to key tenure and promotion milestones.
  - **Teaching Impact:** If requesting a course release, include the number and name of the course to be covered, the average enrollment, and a brief description of your standard teaching load. If you are requesting graduate project assistant (PA) support, provide a brief description of the duties the graduate project assistant will handle.
  - **Career Impact:** How this support (course release or teaching assistance) will contribute to the PI's career trajectory/tenure timeline. If relevant, describe recent obstacles or reasons for delay in your progress and how this support will help mitigate them. For Assistant and Associate professors, include your anticipated timeline for promotion.
  - **Availability of Other Funds:** Include the availability of other funding if the project will incur costs beyond the course release and/or PA time.
- **Note:** Your application will be routed in the InfoReady Review system to your department chair and dean for approval. Your department chair will be asked to submit a brief statement describing the impact on the department and how the course release will be managed within the department (e.g., hiring a temporary instructor; delaying course offering, etc.). All applicants must discuss their request with their department chair prior to submission.

**DEADLINES:** The application deadline for Spring 2025 teaching assistance is **11:59pm May 20, 2024**.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS:** Use the following link to access the InfoReady Review submission portal: <https://unm.infoready4.com>. You will use your UNM Net ID and password to log in. Your application will be routed electronically to your Department Chair and Dean for approval after you enter their email addresses and submit the application. Applications can be submitted April 19-May 20, 2024.

**All applications must be submitted through this portal no later than 11:59pm on May 20, 2024.** No late applications will be accepted. Assistance with your FaST proposal development and submission is available from the Faculty Research Development Office ([frdo@unm.edu](mailto:frdo@unm.edu)).

**REVIEW CRITERIA, AWARD PROCESS, and REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- Applications will be reviewed by the WeR1 Investing in Faculty Success Steering Committee, which includes representation from the ADVANCE program, the Provost's Office, and the OVPR. Additional faculty-based subject matter expertise may also be sought. The committee may also consult with Department Chairs and Deans in prioritizing applications. The Vice President for Research will make final selection decisions.
- **Primary review criteria** will be:
  - **Viability of the work plan**, including identification of concrete research, scholarship, or creative outcomes realistic for the time created by the course release or PA's time.
  - **Progress toward promotion/tenure** and potential for impact on the trajectory of research progress/productivity.
  - **Alignment** of proposed project with career stage of applicant (i.e., rank, tenure status).
- Spring 2025 award recipients must submit a brief report summarizing the impact of the award on their research or scholarship by September 1, 2025. The report should be a maximum of 1 page and will be submitted electronically in the InfoReady portal. The course release or graduate student assistance must be used during the semester for which it is requested. In addition, the awardee must respond to any request for information from OVPR, ADVANCE at UNM, or UNM Marketing and Communications related to this award.
- All publications and other printed materials benefiting from this award, including websites, should acknowledge the funding source as "This work was conducted with support from the University of New Mexico Office of the Vice President for Research WeR1 Faculty Success Program."

**Questions regarding this RFP can be directed to FRDO by emailing [frdo@unm.edu](mailto:frdo@unm.edu). Questions regarding award funding can be directed to Greg Trejo by emailing [vpr@unm.edu](mailto:vpr@unm.edu).**