Michigan’s Revolutionary Research Support Program

Town Hall Meeting
Winter 2018
Purpose of Town Hall Meetings

• Introduction: getting seed funding for new research projects through Mcubed
• Things to do: planning for cubing events in Fall 2018 and beyond
• What’s new: new additions to Mcubed and future directions
• Feedback and input: tell us what you like and don’t like about the program
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Governing Body:
Mcubed Executive Committee

Mark Burns (Mcubed Executive Director, Engineering)
Valerie Johnson (Mcubed Managing Director)
June Howard (LSA)
Robert Jagers (Education)
Gary Luker (Medicine)
Charlotte Mistretta (Dentistry)
Ann Verhey-Henke (Public Health)
Nick Tobier (Art and Design)
Motivation

- Review in traditional funding mechanisms biased against novel, interdisciplinary research
- Difficult for groups of researchers to organize and advocate for resources from central administration
- UM is large, broad in research areas, and difficult to know who is doing what across campus
What is Mcubed’s Seed-funding program?

Rapid distribution of seed funding to self-organized, multi-unit faculty/student teams to initiate innovative projects.
How does it Work?

- Faculty get virtual token, based on unit-defined eligibility.
- Faculty create projects on Mcubed website (mcubed.umich.edu). Other faculty respond to indicate interest.
- Faculty member who posted project commits token to become project owner, then invites two other faculty to join.
- No formal review!
How does it Work?

- Cube is 3 tokens from at least two different units = a trio of faculty.
- Classic cube = $60K total
  Mini-cube = $15K total
- Cubes hire personnel with 50% of funding: undergrads, grads, postdocs.
- Cubes have flexible spending with other 50% of funding: research-related travel, equipment, subject incentives.
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# Decisions for Mcubed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Mcubed Decides (general program requirements)</th>
<th>What Units Decide (specific unit requirements)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rules for cube formation</strong>&lt;br&gt;• At least two units per cube&lt;br&gt;• Must be new research/scholarship&lt;br&gt;• No formal peer review</td>
<td><strong>Definition of eligible token holders by group or category</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Example: all tenure-track faculty with at least a 50% appointment</td>
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<td><strong>Schedule of cubing events</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Semi-random cubing&lt;br&gt;• First-come, first-served cubing</td>
<td><strong>Maximum support of units</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Maximum financial commitment&lt;br&gt;• Maximum number of tokens</td>
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<td><strong>Rules for spending</strong></td>
<td><strong>Funding model per token</strong></td>
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$20K Token (Classic Cube)

- Mcubed: $6,667
- Unit: $
- Faculty PI: $

Total: $13,333
$5K Token (Mini Cube)

- Mcubed: $1,667
- Unit: $3,333
- Faculty PI: $
Mcubed 3.0 Timeline

Winter 2018: Information on Mcubed 3.0; idea mixers; begin idea formulation

Summer 2018: Begin assembling teams; Mcubed 3.0 website goes live; unit financial models posted; additional Michigan universities announced (if applicable)

Fall 2018: Program officially launches; detailed info sessions with website tutorial (if needed); cubing begins early to mid semester
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Additional Campuses

- UM Dearborn new for Mcubed 2.0 (cycled that just ended)
- UM Flint new for Mcubed 3.0 (cycle starting this fall)
- Up to three additional universities may join this cycle
- Teams can form on same campus or across campuses
- Decisions on universities in progress and should be final by summer
Other support for teams

• Expertise clusters: teams of researchers with similar expertise
  ➢ Support for equipment, joint facilities, workshops

• Research themes: teams attacking research theme or challenge
  ➢ Support for seminar programs, webpages, conferences

• Help growing and existing collaborations, understand research strengths and directions on campus
Additional Activities

• Mcubed Diamond: multidisciplinary faculty trios funded by sponsors, who issue the challenge

• Mcubed for Students: summer internships for undergrad and grad students on cubes

• Other initiatives: unit-based collaborative research initiatives, accessed through Mcubed
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Questions:

- **Website**: Anything that was difficult to use or that you would like to see added?

- **Mcubed program**: Anything that you would like to see changed or added?

- **Additional resources**: What else do you need when or after forming interdisciplinary research teams?

- **Other things**: Are there other things that hinder your interdisciplinary research activities?