

Full 5 Year Center Proposal Review Criteria and Process

1. Review Criteria

General comments

A critical facet of the application is to clearly define the topics or questions that will be addressed by Center faculty and to demonstrate why the faculty members identified in the application are uniquely qualified to conduct research on the proposed topics or address the proposed questions. The application should provide a compelling argument that if the Center is funded the University will get more than the sum of the individual faculty parts.

The proposal must address the following question: What will you do together and what important topics or questions will you address if the Center is funded that will not and cannot be addressed without this funding?

Proposal reviewers will be asked to rate proposals based on how well they address the following questions.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding across different fields? How well qualified are the applicants to conduct the project (reviewers should comment on the quality of prior work the applicants have done both individually and collectively)? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity promote teaching, training, and learning while advancing discovery and understanding?

Examples of broader impacts include the following (not all of these have to be addressed in every proposal):

How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance research and/or creative activity and education, such as through facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

How well planned and conceptualized is the proposed activity?

Are the topics or questions to be addressed clearly stated along with a timeline for addressing them and a description of who will work on them? How well conceived and organized are the proposed activities? Is the proposed budget well justified (all Centers need a plan for an administrative core) and are the resources needed to be successful clearly identified?

2. Review process

- i) All proposals are due in the Office of the Provost submitted to wagnera@wfu.edu by 5pm Eastern time on the last Friday in May. All applicants will be asked to submit names and contact information for 4 external reviewers. These external reviewers cannot have been mentors, collaborators, or former colleagues of any of the Center faculty. We will make every effort to obtain at least 2 external ad-hoc reviews of each proposal submitted.
- ii) Each Center proposal submitted will be allotted 30 minutes for Q & A from the Provost and Vice Provost for Research and Faculty Affairs. The Q & A will focus on how the proposed Center fits with, and contributes to the University strategic plan. We will have information on intellectual merit from external and internal reviews so this meeting should focus more on why the Center is a good fit for Wake Forest and its strategic plan. These meetings will typically be scheduled for the second or 3rd week of June.
- iii) Any sitting RAC member who has a conflict with any of the proposals will be replaced for the whole Center review process not just the review of the one proposal where they have a conflict. This will typically result in a Center proposal review group that is about ½ current RAC members and about ½ ad-hoc people. Internal Center reviewers will have access to external reviews before they meet.
- iv) Review group recommendations will be shared with the Dean's Council and the Provost. The Provost makes the final decision on funding.