

Proposal for Faculty Research Support
Baruch College Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Supporting research is central to the mission of Baruch College. Students benefit from professors who are engaged in cutting-edge work, and faculty publications and innovations elevate the prestige and reputation of the college. In fact, support for faculty research has been specifically articulated as a College goal for the FY23 year. It is understood and accepted that the curriculum and the quality of the faculty delivering it is what separates Baruch from other CUNY senior colleges. Research dollars not only support faculty research; these dollars also support and help maintain the very characteristic that attracts motivated students to Baruch. It is why Baruch is unique. Baruch is Access to Excellence.

Unfortunately, research at Baruch was negatively impacted by the pandemic. Faculty lost lab, archive, and library access as well as the ability to travel to conferences or for research abroad. Research time was also lost because faculty were compelled to reinvent their courses for online delivery.

Given this reality, it is both good strategy and essential for the health of Baruch that a portion of the one-time pandemic tax levy fund surplus and CUTRA balance be set aside to support faculty research at Baruch. The funds must be spent during the upcoming academic year, and we know that investing in faculty now, when funds are available, will have far-reaching benefits for faculty, students, and the college.

Impactful forms of research support include teaching release time, conference travel funds, research stipends, and funding for research assistants and teaching assistants. We therefore propose that Baruch's June 30th CUTRA balance and a portion of the CUNY pandemic tax levy fund be allocated to fund these interventions. Because significant institutional support already exists for tenure-track faculty who are within their first five years at Baruch, we believe that an investment in research support will have the greatest effect if distributed among research-active tenured faculty and tenure-track faculty in their sixth and seventh years at Baruch.

To ensure that funds go to worthy research-active faculty, we propose that the funds be distributed to the dean's offices at each of Baruch's three schools and the Newman Library on the basis of each school's number of research active tenured and late-stage untenured faculty. Department chairs would then be charged with allocating the funds based on discipline-appropriate measures for productivity. The goal of this policy would be to offer research support to as many research-active faculty as possible.