

Research Project Budgets

David J. Delene, Ph.D. (1998)

**Research Professor and
Aerospace Research Fellow**



College Research Focus Areas

- Operations
 - Aircraft, Airport, UAS, Space Environment
 - Newer Focus – Stratosphere, Rockets
- Observations (Atmosphere, Space, Earth)
 - Aircraft, UAS, Satellite, Balloons, Surface, Telescope
- Partnerships
 - Government (NASA, FAA, DOD)
 - Foundation
 - Private Companies
 - Colleges



Research Facilities



- Research projects should focus on the problem to address, background and experience of personnel, and lastly facilities.



College Research Proposal Support

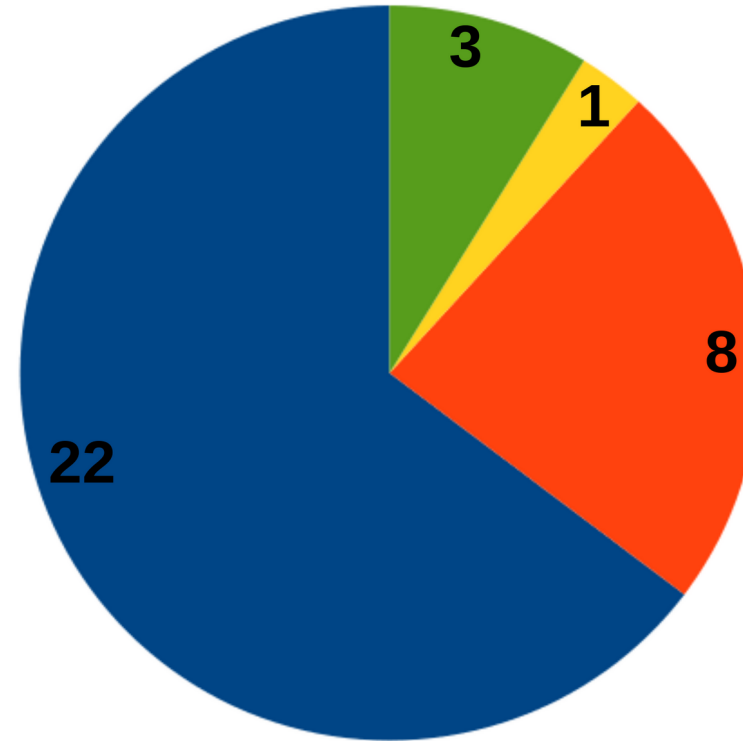
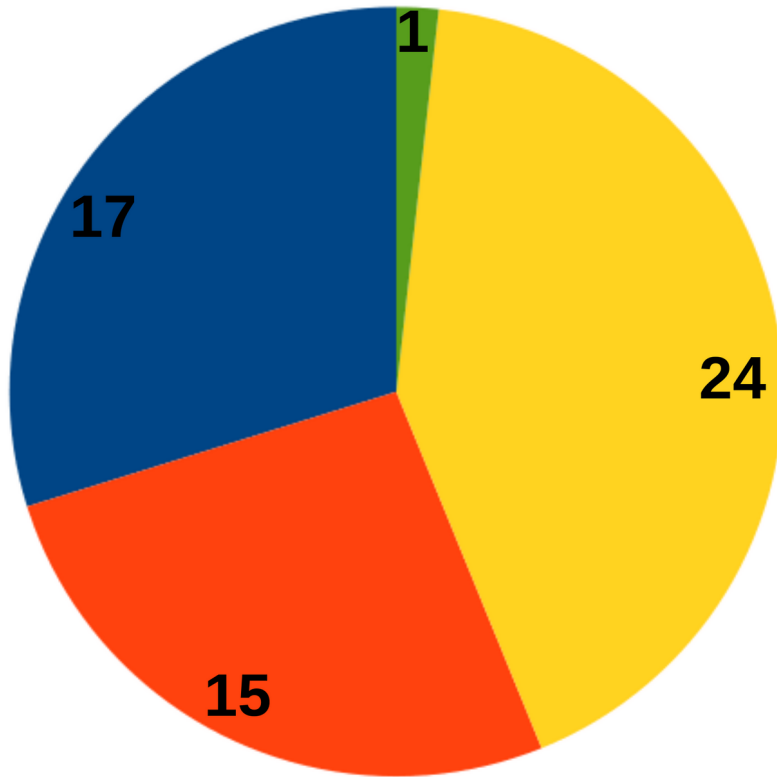
- Proposal Budget Preparation and Support
 - Laurie Baumgartner and Amber Holien
- Computer System Design/Support
 - Neil Nowatzki and John Wold
- College Seed Funding
 - Annual Proposal Calls
- Vetting Proposal Ideas
 - David Delene, Research Fellow
 - Aerospace Research Council
 - FAST (Future Aerospace Strategic Thinking) Presentations



David Delene's University Proposals (2004-2022)

Funded Proposal (57)

Non-Funded Proposal (34)



5 per Year

63 % Successful

Federal

State

Private

Other

General Considerations of Research Project Budget

- Should be as realistic as possible.
- There is no right or correct budget.
- Items should be within 10 %.
- Once funded, funds can moved.
- Cost reimbursable or fixed cost project budget?
 - Most project are cost reimbursable, less risk.
- Limits on the amount of a budget.
 - Hard budget limit.
 - Software, or unwritten, budget limit.



Major Components of a Project Budget

- Direct Cost
 - Cost specific to the project.
- Fringe Benefits
 - Beyond regular salary compensation.
- Indirect Costs (UND is 41 %)
- Cost Sharing and Matching
- Allowable and Unallowable Costs
 - Defined in sponsored agreements
- Subawards / Subcontracts / Vendors



Direct Cost of a Project Budget

Include All Possible Items

- Salary – Direct payment for work.
 - Principal Investigators (PI), Co-PI, Investigator (I)
 - Postdoc, Staff, Graduate and Undergraduate Students
- Fringe – Costs beyond salary, which is a salary percentage.
- Travel – Field project travel and conference travel.
- Major Equipment – Large (>\$5,000) cost items for project.
- Supplies / Shipping – Small cost items for the project.



Project Budget Conclusions

- Legal Aspects
 - Compliance, Audits and Documentation
- Ethical Aspects
 - Is things done right?
- Budget items are tracked differently.
 - Disconnect between budgets plans and execution.
- Budgets amounts are usually a discussion.
- Examples
 - David J. Delene Research Projects

