MSU Academic Competitiveness Fund – Principles and General Intentions

Office of the Provost and OVPRGS
June 2014: MSU Board of Trustees budget action created Academic Competitiveness Fund (ACF), potentially comprising up to $8.7M (new, recurring) support beginning 2014-15; up to additional $6.3 M recurring to begin in 2015-16.
ACF central principle: resources predominantly utilized for tenure system faculty hires to enhance the national and international excellence and competitiveness of MSU as a research university.
ACF investments must address the long recognized need for better MSU competitiveness at NIH and various Federal mission agencies.
Most of the available recurring funds would be split among (perhaps five) priority investment areas, for the recurring support of new hires and associated junior personnel.
Frontier molecular and genomic methods -- applied to plants, animals, and humans.

Others: Applied computation and data science; Novel and sustainable energy production and storage; Nanotechnology; 21st Century manufacturing, including sustainability; Food and water security, including resource development, Education, including particularly STEM, Brain science, aligned with the federal “Brain Initiative”.
Smaller fraction (e.g., ~15%) of the total would be devoted to targeted senior hires to strengthen already exemplary programs. E.g., Plant and microbial sciences, nuclear physics.
Smaller fraction (e.g., 15%) conserved as recurring funding for non-recurring purposes, to be used for opportunistic interventions calculated to enhance MSU academic eminence, and competitiveness.
College pre-proposals to OVPRGS, with a copy to the Office of the Provost, Fall, 2014 (more specific date to come). Pre-proposals identified by colleges in an addendum to materials submitted for the normal Fall academic planning cycle with Provost / VPRGS.