A Faculty Research Account (FRA) includes funds sometimes provided when hired by SPEA (“start-up”) and/or established through indirect cost recovery from external grants. FRA funds are financial resources controlled by the faculty member to be used for enhancing the research infrastructure of SPEA. Such funds are SPEA/IU funds and not owned by the faculty member.

**FRAs and Summer Salary**
Faculty can use the portion of his/her FRA that was supplemented by indirect cost recovery from external awards for summer salary. In order for these funds to be used, there must be research effort during that timeframe.

The funds provided in a FRA as part of a start-up/hiring package are not to be used for salary. FRAs contribute to SPEA’s research goals when they are used to hire post-docs, doctoral students, lab managers, and other research-related expenses (see below) that expand or enhance these efforts.

**Examples of Acceptable Use of FRA Funds**
1. IU business-related travel (conferences, research, etc.). The burden is on the faculty member to demonstrate that the travel is business-related. See new approval form.
2. Computer products (laptops, tablets, other equipment per business need, and related accessories) for your SPEA office. All purchases must be consistent with the computing standards found on https://spea.indiana.edu/services/files/computing_standards.htm.
3. Memberships in professional organizations (requests must be submitted to and approved by the university before payment can be processed).
4. Hiring hourly research and grad assistants.
5. Paying fee remissions and related student insurance.
6. Lab supplies, services, and equipment for research not funded previously by grants, both internal and external to IU.
7. Payment to research subjects (if not grant funded research).
8. Coverage for overspent externally funded grant account expenses.
9. Payment to individuals for professional research-related services (writing, editing, etc.).
10. Postage/shipping expenses related to research.
11. Publication costs.
12. Specific office supplies not provided in the SPEA general supply stock.

**Examples of Unapproved Items** (Items for personal gain that do not meet a business need.)
1. Membership to preferred airline programs for upgrades.
2. Decorations for your office when they do not meet IU specifications.
3. Meals with colleagues or other faculty.
4. Software purchases where IU already has a similar or same product available for free.

All items purchased with FRA funds are the property of SPEA/IU and will remain with SPEA/IU in the event of separation from the university. Faculty members currently receive monthly account statements provided by the SPEA Finance Office.