Quarterly Report to OUS
Board of Higher Education
From
OUS Research Council
John M. Cassady, Chair
VP for Research, OSU
May 8, 2009
Inter-Institutional Research Partnerships and the Federal Research Agenda

Amid the gloom of an economic recession and the prospect of severe budget cuts to Oregon’s Universities; OUS research universities are preparing for a boom in competitive federal funding over the next two years. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a $21 billion increase in federal agency budgets for research and scientific infrastructure. The agencies received the additional budget allocations with the largest amounts to NIH/HHS ($11.1B), DOE ($5.5B) and NSF ($3B). The highest amount as a percentage of base budget went to NSF (50%; $6B base). The ARRA funding to NSF, DOE, NIST, and NASA addresses priorities in the 2007 America COMPETES Act which was authorized but not funded.

Beyond the stimulus package there is more good news. US science budgets have been in decline since 2003, however, on April 27, 2009 President Barack Obama pledged to make the “largest commitment to scientific research and innovation in American history” by devoting more that 3% of GDP to R and D. Parts of the ambitious agenda focus on doubling NSF, DOE and NIST budgets over 10 years. In addition, significant investments in energy initiatives will be organized in a more integrated way under a sustainable earth systems umbrella (environment, climate, water, natural resources, and transportation). These developments will bring significant opportunities to our Oregon University research enterprise and align well with our institutional and inter-institutional strengths and priorities.

In anticipation of opportunities to compete for federal center grants in priority areas (energy, environment, major instrumentation, and high performance research computing for example) the research council has appointed statewide/regional planning groups in key areas. These inter-institutional research partnerships align with the priorities indentified by the research council in our 2009-2011 budget request (Oregon Sustainability Centers of Excellence, Oregon Proteomics Consortium, High Performance Research Computing (HPRC) Initiative). In addition, we have appointed a taskforce chaired by Ron Adams, Dean of Engineering at Oregon State University to develop plans to compete for a NW regional Energy-Discovery Innovation Institute (EDII). The roster of the HPRC planning group and the background and charge to the committee and the roster for the energy taskforce are attached. We will update progress as these groups develop plans and proposals.

Our working sub-groups continue to address important issues and some recent progress is summarized below:

Sponsored Programs/Research Metrics: This group is developing recommendations for standardized reporting of research expenditures. In addition this group will coordinate the reporting required by ARRA with the OUS Internal Audit Division and the Governor’s Oregon Way Taskforce.
Technology Transfer and Commercialization: This group has worked with the Oregon DOJ to streamline the technology transfer process by exempting our technology transfer offices from duplicative review of agreements. This group also has primary responsibility for managing allocations from the University Venture Development Fund(s) (UVDF). OUS has oversight of these funds but coordination between OUS/RC and Oregon InC. is critical as these funds are a cornerstone of the Oregon Innovation Agenda. A summary of progress on the UVDF is attached. The next detailed report on progress will be compiled at the end of fiscal 2009 (through 6/30/09). As the research universities fill the pipeline with spin-out companies our committee is looking at best practices and gaps in our ability to support these companies at every stage in their development. A white paper is in development.

The RC is continuing to meet individually with members of the Board. In these sessions we provide context, discuss priorities, and get individual members input. An agenda for our May meeting is attached. For more detailed information our minutes are on the web (http://www.ous.edu/about/recouncil/). Please contact me if you want to schedule a meeting or if you have questions (John.Cassady@oregonstate.edu).

Attachments:

- HPRC Roster
- HPRC Background
- EDII Taskforce Roster
- Oregon UVDF Update
- OUS RC May Agenda
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BACKGROUND FOR DISCUSSIONS
ON HIGH PERFORMANCE RESEARCH COMPUTING (HPRC)
John M. Cassady, Chair OUS Research Council

One of the high priority areas included in the Oregon University System (OUS) Research Council’s first Policy Option Package was inter-institutional partnerships to support research infrastructure/core facilities. Specific priorities included:

1) Major research equipment match.
2) Oregon Proteomics Consortium.
3) Shared Computational Resources for Research (HPRC Center).

The vision for the High Performance Research Computing Center (HPRC) was to involve both OUS and Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) in creation of a resource that would deliver both high performance computational ability and large data storage capacity to researchers in Oregon. The concept was for this to be a public-private partnership. The current budget situation at the state level resulted in the decision not to fund the OUS Research Council Policy Option Package priorities in the next biennium.

As part of the federal stimulus package process the Governor is creating the Oregon Way Advisory Group. The process will include identification of signature proposals to be endorsed and advanced. One area for investment is computing/broadband and as part of that corporate representatives have suggested to the Chancellor/OUS the possibility of an Oregon HPC Center as a signature area. Their concept is to create a 501c3 non-profit to establish the Center. The question is whether OUS/OHSU sees a compelling need for such a center. The Presidents of Oregon State University (OSU), University of Oregon, and Portland State University endorsed consideration of the concept and the Chancellor asked the Research Council to appoint a “Discussion Group” to consider the concept. The discussion group should identify the genuine needs of our research community taking into consideration the current distributive nature of research computing at some of our research universities. The group will initially involve representatives from OUS research universities and OHSU and will be convened by Curt Pederson, Vice Provost of Information Services and Mark Abbott, Dean of the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences of OSU. The roster of the discussion group is attached. If the conclusion is to develop a proposal other partners will be involved.
eDII-O

OVERVIEW/DESIGNATION OF TASKFORCE:

The OUS Research Council formed an energy task force in order to prepare for the potential opportunity of regional energy Discovery-Innovation Institutes (eDII). The concept of regional eDIIs was established in a policy statement issued by The Brookings Institute. These institutes would be funded at up to $200 million per year. Should this concept come to fruition, we are expecting that one such opportunity would be created for the Northwest Region and we have linked with the Washington research universities through the Dean of Engineering of UW. The OUS task force, designated eDII-O, is a mix of university representatives, industry representatives and PNNL partners along with the Executive Directors of BEST and ONAMI. Other members from industry (including VC) and State Government have been invited and have not yet committed. The roster of eDII-O follows.

CHAIR:
Ron Adams, OSU College of Engineering

MEMBERS:
David Kenney, BEST
Skip Rung, ONAMI
Belinda Batten, OSU College of Engineering
Vincent Remcho, OSU College of Science
David Sailor, PSU Engineering and Computer Science
Robert Bass, OIT Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy
Rod Quinn, PNNL
Mark Lonergan, UO Materials Science Institute
David Johnson, UO Chemistry
Steve Pawlowski, INTEL
Dennis Stiles, PNNL
Ed Baker, PNNL
John MacArthur, PSU Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium
Oregon’s University Venture Development Fund

As of April 17, 2009

Donations Received $2,044,768
Dollars Deployed $1,266,908

Grant/Award Type/Level

- Translational Research Grants
- Venture Awards - Direct to Companies
- Entrepreneurial Education

Regions / Amounts Deployed

$191,500

$625,551
$499,857

Transferred to the State Fund $50,246
AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions ................................................................. All, 5 min

Update on Oregon Way Advisory Group ............................................ Richardson, 10 min

Update on OUS Data Workgroup Metrics ...................................... Hawk, Triplett, 30 min

Update on Oregon Proteomics Consortium ..................................... Hawk, 10 min

OSUVF Demand/Capacity/Fundraising Goals ............................... Cassady/Wall, 20 min

High Performance Research Computing Group ............................... Cassady, 5 min

Energy Discovery Institute (EDII) Taskforce ................................. Cassady, 5 min

Review of Technology Transfer Systems and Processes ............... Cassady, 5 min

Other Business .................................................................................. All, 5 min

Adjourn