



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
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To: All Faculty and Deans
From: Paul T. KostECKi, Vice Chancellor
Cc: Robert C. Holub, Chancellor
Charlena Seymour, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Date: February 25, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul KostECKi".

Re: **Maximizing Stimulus Outcomes for Research at UMass Amherst**

Dear Faculty,

Now that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009 has been signed into law, there is an urgency to be responsive and proactive to its many appropriations, more than \$21B of which will be devoted to research and development. Although the specific mechanisms for the funds' distribution are still being worked through within the many agencies affected, there are some things you can do to improve the chances that some of those funds will come to the UMass Amherst campus.

- Familiarize yourself with the bill. You undoubtedly have seen many different summaries of it. A version that is worth reviewing is the one prepared by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). I encourage you to take a look at it online at www.aaas.org/spp/rd/stim09c.htm. Or, you may want to look at a detailed Congressional summary of the bill at www.house.gov/billtext/hr1_cr_jes.pdf.
- Be mindful of the fact that, for at least the NSF and NIH, the bulk of the funds will likely be awarded to proposals that have already been reviewed and recommended for funding but were unfunded. With the release of these new funds will also come new budgeting and reporting requirements aimed at demonstrating results for the bill's intention: economic stimulus. These funds may also only be available for two years so projects that are selected may be asked to either accelerate their outcomes into the two-year time frame (with an enhanced budget) or reduce their budgets (and outcomes) accordingly. Therefore, you should review your eligible proposals and be prepared to revisit the budget, timeline, and outcomes. The NSF has indicated they will go back to October 1, 2008. The NIH was less precise but gave the impression they wouldn't go back further.
- There will also likely be new RFAs and RFPs for projects and major instrumentation and capital investment. The NIH is expected to issue its RFAs within 30 days. Be on the lookout for these calls for proposals. Also note that the DOE is still putting its plans in place for its funds from the bill.
- Stay in touch with your program managers, officers, and directors and check appropriate sites, like www.nih.gov/about/director, for updates and implementation details.
- Communicate to your dean and me about projects that you think are suitable for these appropriations so that the administration can support your efforts.

Please do not miss any opportunity to submit or resubmit a proposal that comes your way.

Thank you for your excellence and commitment to UMass Amherst. Feel free to contact me to discuss these historic opportunities.