

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The Amherst campus continues to maintain a high level of sponsored project activity with an increase in proposals submitted of 12% and an increase in awards accepted of 15% over FY '05. These percentages represent an unprecedented volume of activity. In addition to processing a higher volume of proposals and awards, there have been many changes to the way we do business. Many of these have been dictated by the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347) that promotes electronic Government services. The Federal government has instituted Grants.gov in response to this law and consequently many agencies are transitioning to a somewhat standardized electronic proposal submission system and to provide applicants with a one-stop-shopping site for Federal funding opportunity identification as well. This has presented the staff at OGCA, as well as the faculty and their departmental support staff, with many challenges and ample learning opportunities. OGCA is working to create and enhance a Grants.gov web presence on our homepage and conduct initial instructional sessions for faculty and staff on the use of Grants.gov.

Dove-tailed into this effort is the promotion of the Grants Application Management System or GAMS. UMass participated in the best business practices collection during development of the software and has been implementing it on a limited basis for the past year. OGCA has conducted several demonstrations with groups and one-on-one instructional sessions. If you are interested in exploring the benefits of GAMS, especially with regard to budget generation, please contact Leanne Every or Kimberley Broderick at the general OGCA phone number or email address located on the Staff Directory page of this report.

UMass continues to be successful in its pursuit for large multi-disciplinary grants. This has resulted in a large increase in the issuance of subcontracts, development and management of membership agreements as well as special project management assistance. The team approach to the management of these projects has been a rewarding experience.

PROPOSALS

Proposal volume increased 12% in FY '06 despite a decrease in amount requested across most sponsor categories. Manifesting the recent campus emphasis on interdisciplinary efforts, there were 122 cooperative proposals in FY 2006 which is an increase of 13% over FY 2005.

AWARDS

As a result of increasing award dollars, the three year rolling average of awards in FY '06 rose 4% over FY '05. Reflecting the increase in interdisciplinary proposals, 52 multidisciplinary awards were received in FY '06, with Co-Investigators from 64 different departments. Twelve of these awards (23%) had Co-Investigators from more than one department. Eight percent of the total award dollars were generated from multidisciplinary projects.

FUNDING SOURCES AND TRENDS

Federal funding remained strong with an increase of 11% over last fiscal year. Likewise Private Non-Profit funding increased 28% to comprise 12% of the total dollars awarded. State and Industry funding did not keep pace with levels seen in previous years. State and Local Government proposals and funding appear to be on a 2 year cycle of large peaks and valleys. FY06 was a "valley" year. Though this cycle is somewhat of a mystery, it may be due in part to typical funding mechanisms of some awards.

The campus continues to promote cooperation with other institutions by successfully establishing subaward relationships with a variety of collaborating sponsors. Many subaward relationships are pass-through awards originating from in the Federal government. The greatest number and dollar value of pass-through funding to UMass in FY 2006 was through other Colleges and Universities, followed by Industry. Forty-seven percent of all pass through awards were made through Colleges and Universities, and of that, 93% was documented as coming from federal sources originally. The Non-Profit Private category of funding rose 28% over FY 2005 and 57% of that increase was pass through funding, 92% of which was federal in origin. Industry funding fell a little in FY '06 but still represented 44% of all Private Funding sources and 35% of all pass through funding. Ninety-five percent of all Industry pass through funding was of Federal origin.

In summary, the UMass Amherst campus is pursuing and achieving greater interdisciplinary activity and building strong cooperation both within the University as well as with other institutions. We anticipate continued success in the receipt of funding as a result of ongoing proposal submission productivity. We look forward to sharing the evolution of electronic grant and contract administration as well as the pursuit of collaborative research with our campus colleagues as we tackle these sweeping changes together.