



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

362 Whitmore Administration Building
University of Massachusetts
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003-9313

Office of the Provost

voice: 413.545.2554
fax: 413.577.3980
www.umass.edu/provost

DATE: February 27, 2005
TO: Research Council of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Charlena M. Seymour, Provost *Charlena M. Seymour*
Re: Comments on Council Recommendations in 2004

Chancellor Lombardi, in October 2004, commented in detail on the three research policy reports issued by the Research Council in the Spring of the prior academic year (March 5, 2004- Direct Research Cost Recovery Policy; May 5, 2004- Indirect research Cost Recovery and "Redistribution" Policy; June 4, 2004- Administration of an Internal Research Program). I shared his comments with the School and College Deans and sought their additional comments. Primarily, they agreed with the Chancellor's views. Two Deans specifically urged that faculty be made more aware of the actual costs of research and the source of payment of those costs (allowable federal indirect cost recovery versus university operating budget). Additionally, one dean suggested (and I concur) that a formal tracking of Faculty Research Grants be put in place to identify how much subsequent funded support is generated from these seed funds.

We track research using useful measures of productivity such as total research expenditures and the number of research active faculty. The Council's addition of headcount RAs – partly to monitor any untoward trends possibly attributable to curriculum fee or stipend amounts- together with your application of a 3 year rolling average should add to this assessment of productivity.

Reports and future work by the Council will ensure that important discussions continue on campus regarding our research mission. I thank the Council for your hard work and look forward to continuing our shared responsibility to promote the research mission of the campus.

Cc: Chancellor John Lombardi
Vice Provost Kostecki
Dean Michael Malone, College of Engineering