

A Resolution on Research Priorities at The George Washington University (04/2)

WHEREAS, it is a stated goal in The George Washington University Strategic Plan for Academic Excellence to move GW into the ranks of the top-tier research institutions through continued and enhanced facilitation of faculty scholarship and research growth; and

WHEREAS, stated goals of The George Washington University Strategic Plan for Research include developing a more supportive research culture and environment at GW, increasing the quality and quantity of research by both faculty and students, increasing the amount of sponsored research at GW, and enhancing the reputation of GW as a research oriented university; and

WHEREAS, implementation of these goals requires that “GW will support increases in the quantity and quality of funded and unfunded faculty research and scholarship essential to the University’s overall prestige,” as stated in the Strategic Plan for Academic Excellence; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing the recent efforts of the Administration of The George Washington University to increase the support of research infrastructure on the University, School, and Departmental levels, a review by the Senate Committee on Research has determined that the amount budgeted for support of research has been and still remains only a fraction of that which would be sufficient to accomplish these goals; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the budget for the Research Enhancement Incentive Award (REIA) program, which gives PIs, departments, and schools funds to reinvest in research in proportion to their sponsored research activity for such critical needs as proposal development, startup packages for new faculty, and equipment cost sharing vital to many grant proposals, has remained flat while research activity, productivity, and external funding has increased; and

WHEREAS, the REIA budget (\$655,000) was insufficient in FY04 to fully fund REIA payouts under the current formula (which would have dictated a payment of \$1,121,000 for FY03 research activity); and

WHEREAS, there is currently no mechanism to ensure that the REIA budget grows in proportion to the growth of research activity; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

1. **THAT**, as a first step in fulfillment of the above stated research goals, the Faculty Senate urges the University to institute a plan to fully fund REIA from indirect cost recoveries

and tuition paid by externally-funded grants and that a mechanism to ensure that the REIA budget grows in proportion to the growth of research, where, based on the current formula and an estimated 15% in the average growth in external grant indirect costs and tuition, the additional funding needed for FY05 is \$645,000 (an estimated payout of \$1,300,000 - \$655,000), and the additional funding needed for FY06 is \$195,000 (\$1,495,000 – \$1,300,000);

2. **THAT**, understanding the importance of prioritizing objectives, the Faculty will continue to work with the Administration to develop other specific research priorities to be pursued aggressively over the next 3-5 years and to recommend mechanisms for funding these priorities;
3. **AND THAT**, more generally, the Dean of each school or college be encouraged to continue to support research at The George Washington University and that the University endeavor to set budgeting priorities in accordance with the fulfillment of the above stated research goals.

Faculty Senate Committee on Research
March 26, 2004

Adopted May 7, 2004