August 5, 2008

To: Henry Yang, Chancellor

From: Michael Witherell, Vice Chancellor for Research

Subject: Statistics on extramural funding for sponsored projects, fiscal year 2008

I am pleased to send you a brief annual report on extramural funding agencies’ support for research and other activities at UC Santa Barbara.

The total funding awarded to sponsored projects at UCSB in fiscal year 2008 was a record $194 million. This is an increase of $18 million over last year’s total of $176 million, and represents a remarkable 22% increase in extramural funding over the last two years.

Interestingly, although most of our extramural funding comes from federal agencies, that component decreased slightly this year. Picking up the slack were large increases in non-federal sources, including private foundations and technology companies.

We are displaying the sources of funding on the accompanying charts in a somewhat different way this year to demonstrate more clearly the effect of federal funding for research. We are showing as a separate part of the pie chart the large amount of federal funding, $25 million, that comes indirectly to us through our research partners, usually other research universities or companies.

The total funding from private sources, mostly from foundations, was $30 million, easily a record. The largest foundation award was one of $10 million given to Michael Gazzaniga of the Psychology Department, which is administered by the Neuroscience Research Institute. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded this grant to establish a new national program on the law and neuroscience, which will be based here and involve other leading universities across the country. Foundations often support very important research that is not well suited to federal funding competitions. For example, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded Debra Lieberman of the Communication Department $389,000 to establish a national program office within our Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research to oversee a new $8.25 million competitive research grants program on how interactive games can be used to improve health.
Industrial sponsors awarded $12 million directly to our researchers in fiscal year 2008. In addition, UCSB received $5 million in federal funding redirected to us by our industrial research partners. This total of $17 million from industrial concerns compares with $9 million just two years ago. We have developed an increasingly integrated approach to corporate collaborations which helps reduce the barriers that can impede successful university-industry partnerships. The Mitsubishi Chemical Center for Advanced Materials (MC-CAM) is a wonderful example of what superb academic researchers can accomplish in close collaboration with an industry partner-sponsor. MC-CAM has been extraordinarily productive by any measure—scientific papers, patentable inventions, and new doctorates in forefront technologies.

The California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the agency that was established through the Passage of Proposition 71 to promote stem cell research in California, gave our new Center for Stem Cell Biology and Engineering a total of $4.6 million. By using this to renovate existing laboratory space, we are able to get a fast start in developing this growing area of research at UCSB.

The attached charts and the tabulated data used to make them are available on the Office of Research Web site at http://research.ucsb.edu/pubs/research_statistics.shtml.

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