November 1, 2005

To: Henry Yang, Chancellor

From: Michael Witherell, Vice Chancellor for Research

Subject: Statistics on extramural funding for sponsored projects, fiscal year 2005

I am pleased to send you a brief report about the continued strong support that UCSB researchers are attracting from extramural funding agencies.

The total funding awarded to sponsored projects at UCSB in fiscal year 2005 was $153 million. Although this is somewhat less than our record the previous year of $161 million, it is 35% more than it was five years ago, and about twice what it was ten years ago. Research expenditures, which are shown in a separate graph assembled by the Accounting Office, were $130 million in fiscal year 2005, well above the previous record of $119 million in 2004.

Charts describing UCSB’s extramural funding are attached. I call your attention to a few interesting points. A total of $111 million, or 72% of the total research funding, comes directly from federal sources. In addition, half of the funding from non-federal sources originated as federal funding, but passed through another institution. If we include such flow-through of federal funding, most of which is shown in the Private funding category, we find that the federal government ultimately provides 86% of extramural support for campus research.

The largest single funder of UCSB research is the National Science Foundation. By looking at the NSF database for fiscal year 2004, the latest for which records exist, we can see that UCSB stands 17th among all universities in total NSF support. UCSB stands in the top 20 universities for 4 different directorates within NSF: 10th in Biological Sciences, 14th in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, 16th in Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering, and 18th in Geosciences. The NSF support for the UCSB research program is very strong across a remarkably broad spectrum of fields.

The second largest funder of UCSB research is the Department of Defense, through several different agencies within the Department. We are among the top 20 universities in research funding from the DOD.

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/reports/.

As you know, the ultimate measure of UCSB research is the total of its contributions to the advance of human knowledge, not the total amount of research funding. UCSB researchers are also making great strides in areas for which the national funding is much
less than the natural sciences and engineering, including the arts, humanities, social sciences and education. This broad picture is perhaps best captured by the featured news stories produced by the Office of Public Affairs over the past year. We are forwarding the funding information to Paul Desruisseaux to help him and his office tell the very good story of research at UCSB.

Of course I am inheriting all of this good news from the people here in the Office of Research, which processed a total of 1716 proposals in FY 2005, and negotiated and accepted 1023 awards. I am impressed both by the intellectual richness of UCSB’s research program and by the energy and talent of the people here in OR and around the campus who promote and support this enormous research program.

Finally, I would like to thank Steve Gaines and Louise Moore, who together guided the Office of Research so well through a period of rapid growth over the last three years.

c: Donna Carpenter, Acting Vice chancellor, Administrative Services
   Paul Desruisseaux, Associate Vice Chancellor, Public Affairs
   Todd Lee, Budget Director, Budget and Planning
   Gene Lucas, Executive Vice Chancellor
   David Marshall, Executive Dean, College of Letters & Science
   Louise Moore, Executive Director, Office of Research
   Chris Sneathen, Director, Information Systems
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