

16 Nov 2010

**FROM:** John Poate**DATE:** 12 October 2010**TO:** Department Heads and Division Directors**COPY:** Provost, VPFO, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Graduate Studies, Director of ORA, AVP for Research**SUBJ:** Institutional Support for Research

When President Scoggins took office in 2006, Mines' Board of Trustees affirmed its commitment to the School's research mission. The university's investment in research development has helped us go from under \$30 million to approaching \$50 million per year in sponsored research in less than four years. However, as we reduce our reliance on state funding, we must become more strategic in our use of existing resources and more entrepreneurial in our search for new sources. In reality, to become a full-fledged research university, we need to double our research award volume and double the PhD population.

To accomplish this goal, we will continue our recent level of investment in faculty and graduate students, increase and focus our support for major new initiatives, and expand the role of department heads and division directors in leading their research programs. The following commitments represent an institutional investment equal to approximately 20% of our total research funding.

1. **New Faculty Startup Support** - Mines commits about \$2 million per year in startup funding to support research initiation efforts of new faculty. This budget is the responsibility of the Provost, and the research community will contribute to strategies for cluster hires.
2. **Financial Aid** - The Dean of Graduate Studies will continue to provide academic-year tuition-differential fellowships and summer research registration fellowships for Graduate Research Assistants.
3. **Research Initiation** - The role of the VPRTT equipment matching account has been expanded to encompass all forms of support for major new initiatives (including instrumentation), and the budget has been increased to \$1/2 million per year. Assuming realistic success rates and leveraging in-kind support will make approximately \$3 million per year available for proposals for major new initiatives.
4. **Facilities & Administration Cost (Overhead) Return** - Research centers will continue to receive full F&A Cost return. Department Heads and Division Directors will receive the full F&A Cost return (including the portions now going to the VPRTT and PIs) on non-Center projects. DHDDs and center directors will consult with the PIs that generated the funds and will meet with each other at least annually to adopt division/department strategies for use of the return.
5. **Cost Sharing** - In order to reduce administrative delays and empower DHDDs to take a stronger leadership role, DHDDs will be given broader authority to make decisions about cost sharing within guidelines distributed by the VPRTT and the Director of Research Administration.

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