



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement

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To: All Faculty and Deans  
From: Paul T. Kostecki, Vice Chancellor  
Cc: Robert C. Holub, Chancellor  
Charlena Seymour, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Date: January 27, 2009  
Re: Maximizing Stimulus Outcomes for Research at UMass Amherst

Dear Faculty,

We are all quite heartened by President Obama's commitment to science and higher education. As you know, there is much discussion underway about how funds for research included in recent stimulus legislation will make their way to campuses like ours. Although the legislation is still mid-stream in the congressional process, it is very likely that budgets for various granting agencies will be increased. The legislation and a 75-page summary are available that have detailed information about federal programs that will likely receive increased funding although this is all subject to deliberation and revision. A campus-specific summary, prepared by the Office of Government and Community Relations, is attached for your use.

The Office of Research & Engagement is working closely with the Office of Government and Community Relations as well as our Massachusetts Congressional delegation to monitor this legislation and position the campus as best we can. With this goal in mind, I encourage you to take the following actions:

- Review the summary of this legislation closely with an eye toward programs that could support your research. The summary of the bill (75 pages) is at <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryReport01-15-09.pdf>. The full text of the bill (258 pages) is at <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryBill01-15-09.pdf>.
- If you've had proposals receive favorable scores that weren't funded due to insufficient funds by the funding agency, prepare to resubmit them to appropriate agencies based on the increased funding outlined in this summary. Once this bill passes we expect that there will be a very short turn around time for proposal submissions
- Watch program solicitations even more diligently than usual and submit proposals aligned with stimulus priorities. Be advised that programs that fund bricks and mortar are being resurrected.
- If you have any new ideas that you were saving for the future, consider submitting them sooner while the focus is on these stimulus areas.
- Talk with your program managers, officers and directors to let them know you will be submitting proposals in these areas.

If you do pursue the programs affected by the legislation, please let me know (pkostecki@research.umass.edu) so that we can mobilize the campus resources (e.g., Office of Government and Community Affairs and Office of Research Liaison & Development) to assist your endeavors.

Your excellence is a major point of pride for this campus. The timing and alignment of campus strengths and stimulus priorities is such that we will do what we can to maximize the outcomes for you and the campus.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Kostecki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul T. Kostecki  
Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement

Atts:  
Summary of Stimulus Legislation, Jan 23, 2009

**The following memorandum was prepared by the Office of Government and Community Relations on January 23, 2009. It provides an index to the 75-page Summary document available at**

<http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryReport01-15-09.pdf>

This memo is based upon the Summary (Discussion Draft) of the House Stimulus Bill (“Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009”). It focuses on those topics in which various campus units may have an interest: demonstrated research strengths for developing successful competitive grants, experience and expertise to provide assistance to government agencies, or basic campus needs that can be addressed.

In general, the funding opportunities fall into these categories:

- (1) Increased funding for federal grant programs, programs that usually require competitive applications and peer reviews. Examples of this include the NSF and DOE grant programs described below, “Research in Science & Technology (General).”
- (2) Increased funding to states, often using established formulas, for awards to organizations or communities. Examples include the University Facilities Repair program and Highway Infrastructure (see below, “Physical Plant”).
- (3) A third category includes increased funding to federal agencies for development projects for which UMass experts could contract to play a significant role. These include cyber security and information technology generally, water quality monitoring, remediation of water and soils, aviation safety/antennas.

The Bill is still subject to deliberation and revision. There are, at present, no opportunities for earmarking special projects

### A. Physical Plant

Page 62: University Facilities Repair and Modernization: the Bill proposes spending \$6B for higher education institutions to modernize, renovate and repair facilities. The money will be distributed to states by a formula based on enrollments, with special consideration given to institutions that enroll high numbers of minority students or have been impacted by major disasters.

Pages 69-70: Highway Infrastructure: \$30B on shovel-ready projects involving roads and highways. The Bill also proposes spending \$6B on improvements to intermodal and transit facilities, with funds distributed through existing transit formulas.

Pages 23-24: NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program: Increased support for instrumentation projects (over \$2M) cited by the National Academies’ 2006 report, “Advanced Research Instrumentation and Facilities.” The Bill also proposes spending

\$400M on research equipment and facilities previously approved or nearing completed design reviews (p.25).

Page 28: DOE Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1B to assist institutions to design infrastructure projects and implement energy efficiency innovative technologies.

Page 51: NIH Research Facilities: \$1.5B for renovation and repair of university research facilities that conduct NIH research projects.

Page 20: NIST Research Building Construction Grants: \$300M to support the National Institute of Standards and Technology's competitive grant program to support construction of science facilities at nonprofit research organizations on a merit basis.

## B. Education & Arts

Pages 24-25: NSF Education Programs: \$60M for the Noyce Teacher Scholarships to support students planning to become K-12 math and science teachers. \$40M for the Math & Science Partnership to support innovative improvements in K-12 achievement in math and science.

Page 50: Nurse Training for Primary Care: \$600 million to provide training primary care doctors and dentists, as well as support for nursing programs, such as scholarships.

Page 60: Teacher Quality Enhancement: \$100M to state education authorities to provide competitive grants to improve the quality and quantity of the teaching workforce.

Page 46: National Endowment for the Arts: \$50M for the NEA, with at least 60 percent for competitively selected arts projects and activities.

## C. Student Financial Aid

Pages 59 & 62: Pell Grants & Student Loans: \$15.6B to increase the size of Pell Grant awards, increasing the maximum award to \$5350.

Page 60: College Work-Study: \$490M to increase support for this matching program.

## D. Research in Science & Technology (General)

Pages 23-24: NSF Research & Related Activities: \$2.5B to for 3,000 additional highly-rated, new research awards.

Page 32: DOE Office of Science: \$400M for DOE's Advanced Research Agency to support research in traditional and alternative energy sources and in energy efficiency.

## E. Research in Science & Technology (Specific Topics)

Page 51: NIH Research: \$1.5B to support biomedical research.

Page 28: Department of Energy Research in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: \$2B on research related to renewable energy and energy efficiency

Page 26: Department of Defense Energy Research: \$350M for funding energy research with military applications.

Page 41: US Geological Survey: \$200M to expand/renew USGS's ability to monitor, among other things, ground water evaluation, using advanced sensing technology.

Page 21: NOAA Satellites & Sensors: \$600M to address satellites able to address climate change research and mitigation activities, including climate sensors to be deployed with the satellites. The initiative will establish climate change data for modeling and monitoring climate changes.

Page 22: NASA Science: the Bill proposes spending \$400M on geoscience and astrophysics to address questions concerning the Earth's climate change. The Bill also proposes that NASA spend \$150M on aeronautics, including aviation safety (antenna research) and environmental impact.

Page 33: Department of Defense Environmental Management: \$500M to accelerate nuclear waste cleanup. See also page 42, EPA support for remedial clean-up (Superfund).

Page 43: EPA Clean Water Projects: \$8B to support programs related to clean water, waste water and related issues.

## F. Information Technology

Page 57: Educational Technology: \$1B on educational technology for schools to acquire hardware and software and for institutions to provide professional development for teachers to enhance teaching and curriculum in schools that employ instructional technologies.

Pages 54 & 56: Health Information Technology: \$2B for health information technology, including the enhancement of cyber security for this technology. The Bill also directs \$98M for enhancing the State Department's cyber security (pp. 67-68)

Pages 18-19: Broadband Development Grants: \$350M to support states' broadband grant programs and \$2.8B on providing broadband development for underserved areas. A major reason for this expansion is to enhance distance learning capabilities (see p. 16).

Page 14: Farm Service Agency: \$245M to develop effective, more permanent IT system for communications between the USDA and American farmers. The Bill also proposes spending \$100M to establish, improve or administer MIS systems for the USDA's Nutrition Assistance Program (p.17).