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## Research Committee

### Annual Report

#### 2001-2002

The University Research Committee (URC) was fortunate to have a group of diligent and knowledgeable members during the past year as we received a record number of requests for Faculty Summer Fellowships ♦49 proposals. On December 10, 2001 we notified the Office of Research and Graduate Study that we had made 15 awards of \$8,500.00. This was what we felt we could afford given the monies allocated by way of the AAUP Agreement Bargained Funds. While in the past three years, the Office of Academic Affairs has supplemented this amount, that was not true this year. Later in the year when it was clear that we had some monies left over, we awarded three more Fellowships for a total of 18. There was a great deal of discussion in the URC that while in the past the majority of Faculty Fellowship applications were funded, the increase in faculty without a similar increase in funds now made that impossible. This is particularly difficult for new faculty.

In the weeks following, the URC tried to find a method of providing more funding for new faculty while understanding the needs of tenured faculty. While the idea was expressed by others that tenured faculty have more access to external funding sources, we found this not to be true in many disciplines. Therefore we needed to maintain some balance between the needs of both groups. After discussions with Vice Provost Hansen and with Provost Moudgil, the URC passed and sent forward a proposal changing the way that points would be awarded for new faculty and requesting that the Office of Academic Affairs support eight new faculty Fellowship Awards specifically to give them a boost in their progress toward tenure. That proposal is **attached**. The URC received no reply to the proposal but this year The URC will use the new guidelines in considering eligibility for Summer Fellowships.

During 2001-2002 the URC decided after a discussion between the URC chair and Vice Provost Hansen that we would not fund student research grants from funds that had been bargained. That meant that the URC tried to award grants equal to the \$4,000 from the President ♦s Office for student awards. The URC made seven student research awards and two student travel grants ranging from \$300 to \$500. Further requests for student research and travel funding were redirected to the fund for student research established by the Provost. It is the opinion of the URC that there be work done to better coordinate the research grants available to students, especially making travel monies available as well as graduate student research funds.

In further actions the URC awarded small faculty grants to six faculty as well as a Meadowbrook Conference Grant which was given to Professors Cole and Nixon. It also reaffirmed and formalized a decision to support having a grants specialist visit campus each year to assist faculty in applying for outside funding. This is consistent with the URC ♦s mission and we feel it money well-spent. The URC ♦s contribution will be \$2,500 each academic year.

The URC feels that it is imperative to make more monies available for research by faculty, especially new faculty in light of Oakland becoming a Research I institution. There is also the fact that the university has hired a large number of new faculty. It is important that they be assisted in their research pursuits. Finally, the URC wants to clear up any misunderstanding about the targeted groups for the Summer Research Fellowships. They are available to any member of the faculty. They are not to be exclusively for the new faculty nor should they be in as much as many areas of research do not have adequate sources of funding. We urge the Provost to reconsider the resolution the URC sent forward during the last academic year.

Again, I commend the members of the committee who worked so hard, even to the point of having to meet on Saturdays in order to finish our deliberations. Those members were:

Randy Gu	Engineering & Computer Science
Kenneth Hightower	Health Science (Fall, 2001)
Beth Marcoux	Physical Therapy/Health Science (Winter 2002)
Nivedita Mukherje	Business Administration
Margaret Pigott	Rhetoric, Communication
Daniel Ring	Library
Ananda Sen	Mathematics and Statistics
Darlene Schott-Baer	Nursing
Mark Severson	Chemistry
Karen Sheridan	Music, Theater & Dance

Thank you for having allowed me to work with such great people.

Respectfully submitted,  
James F. Ciplewski, Ph.D.  
Chair, University Research Committee 2001-2002

#### Faculty Representatives

Jim Ciplewski (Chair)

Randy Gu

Ranald Hansen\*\*

Kenneth Hightower

Beth Marcoux

Nivedita Mukherje

#### Academic Units

School of Education and Human Services

School of Engineering and Computer Science

Office of the Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Study

School of Health Sciences (Fall Semester)

School of Health Sciences (Winter Semester)

School of Business Administration

Margaret Pigott	Department of Rhetoric, Communication & Journalism
Daniel Ring*	Library
Darlene Schott-Baer*	School of Nursing
Ananda Sen	Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Mark Severson	Department of Chemistry
Karen Sheridan	Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

\* Graduate Council Representative

\*\* Ex-officio member of the University Research Committee

## UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

### AWARD SUMMARY

#### FISCAL YEAR 2002

#### TOTAL URC BUDGET

**\$169,000**

Research Fellowships (18 @ \$8,500)	\$153,000
Fringe Benefits (1.45%)	1,700
Faculty Research Grants/Special Projects	7,000
Student Research/Travel Grants	27
Meadow Brook Hall Conference Support	3,000
President's Colloquium Series	525
Page Charges	542
Encumbrance for Research 2002 Workshop	2,500
<b>TOTAL URC CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$168,294</b>

#### BALANCE

**\$706**

#### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

President's Colloquium Series	\$15,000
New Investigator Research Excellence Award	1,500
Research Excellence Award	2,500
Student Research/Travel Grants	4,000
<b>TOTAL PRESIDENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>

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**TOTAL URC & PRESIDENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**\$191,294**

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## FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Name	Title	Amount
<b>Djamel Bouchaffra and Engineering</b>	<b>Computer Science</b> "A Multi-Modal Computer System"	\$8,500
<b>Arthur Bull</b>	<b>Chemistry</b> "Activation of Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor by 13-Oxo-octadecadienoic"	\$8,500
<b>Baruch Cahlon Mathematics and Statistics</b>	"Asymptotic Stability of Neutral Delay Differential Equations"	\$8,500
<b>Sheldon Gordon Sciences</b>	<b>Biological</b> "Regulation of Cell Division by the Actin Cytoskeleton"	\$8,500
<b>Ravindra Khattree Statistics</b>	<b>Mathematics and</b> "Some Alternative Tools to Assess Multicollinearity and Outlier Induced Collinearities: Antieigenvalues"	\$8,500
<b>Yong-Shik Lee Marketing</b>	<b>Management and</b> "The Study of Safeguard Measures in World Trade"	\$8,500
<b>Gwendolyn McMillon and Language Arts</b>	<b>Reading</b> "Crossing the Borders: Urban Teachers Examining and Responding to African American Students' Literacy Experiences at Church and at School"	\$8,500
<b>Kenneth Mitton Institute</b>	<b>Eye Research</b> "Evaluation of a Combined Biotechnology / Bioinformatics Method to Screen for Proteins that Interact with Retinal Disease and Development Proteins"	\$8,500
<b>Sean Moran</b>	<b>History</b> "The Story of Ireland: Politics, Culture and Identity in Modern Ireland 1607-1995"	\$8,500
<b>Balaji Rajagopalan and Information Sciences</b>	<b>Decision</b> "Effect of Error Perturbation on Cluster Recovering Using Evolutionary Computing and Kohonen Self-Organizing Maps"	\$8,500

## FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

<b>Name</b>		<b>Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Phyllis Rooney</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>	"Argumentation Theory and Feminism"	\$8,500
<b>Irwin Schochetman</b>	<b>Mathematics and Statistics</b>	"Optimal Strategies for Infinite Horizon Dynamical Systems"	\$8,500
<b>Linda Schweitzer</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	"Transport of Environmental Contaminants from Sediment Resuspension Events in Freshwater Systems"	\$8,500
<b>Sze-kai Tsui</b>	<b>Mathematics and Statistics</b>	"Mathematical Analysis and Control of Multi-link Flexible Robots"	\$8,500
<b>Douglas Wendell</b>	<b>Biological Sciences</b>	"A Novel Mechanism for the Control of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor"	\$8,500
<b>Donggang Yao</b>	<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	"Injection Molding Plastic Microstructures"	\$8,500
<b>Thomas Zeller</b>	<b>History</b>	"Consuming Landscapes: The View from the Road in the United States and Germany 1910-1995"	\$8,500
<b>Xiangqun Zeng</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	"Probe Molecular Adsorption at Metal Electrode Surfaces"	\$8,500

## FACULTY RESEARCH/SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT AWARDS

Name	Title	Amount
Laurie Eisenhower Theatre and Dance	Music, "The Land of Nod"	\$1,000
George Gamboa Sciences	Biological "The Communicative Meaning of Abdominal Vibrations in the Social Wasp, Polistes dominulus"	\$1,200
Robert Goldstein Science	Political "The Attorney General's List: Red Scares, Blacklists and the First Amendment"	\$1,200
Paul Kubicek Science	Political "Post-Communist Organized Labor: Lost Amid Marketization and Democratization"	\$1,200
John McEneaney and Language Arts	Reading "New Directions in Learning, Teaching and Scholarship"	\$1,200
Karen Miller	History "Republic Coalition Building, 1912-1932"	\$1,200

## MEADOW BROOK HALL RESEARCH CONFERENCE GRANT

Natalie Cole, Jude Nixon English	"Emma on the Couch: Representing Psychological Processes in Literature and Film"	\$3,000
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**STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Michelle Bartlett, Noelle Beaudry, Angela Carlile, Lori Dembinski, Nakia Walker School of Health Sciences</b>	"Use of the S.W.A.S.H. Orthosis for Sitting Functional Activities in Children with Spastic Diplegic Cerebral Palsy"	\$317
<b>Martin Bloda Sciences</b>	<b>Biological</b> "Cloning and Characterization of Degradative Genes of Carbofuran-degrading Pseudomonas Sp."	\$500
<b>Johann Briffa Science and Engineering</b>	<b>Computer</b> "Information Hiding in Images"	\$400
<b>Robert Buboi Sciences</b>	<b>Biological</b> "Construction of a DNA Vaccine VR1030/PAR2/RANTES"	\$300
<b>Tracy Kolean Sciences</b>	<b>Biological</b> "Localization of Proteins Expressed by a Designed DNA Vaccine Using Transmission Electron Microscopy"	\$500
<b>Sara Lugger Health Sciences</b>	<b>School of</b> "The Perceptions of Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis towards Physical Therapy Treatment"	\$350
<b>Amelita Sanchez Sciences</b>	<b>Biological</b> "Hormonal Regulation of Oncogene, v-Src, in Breast Cancer Cells"	\$500
<b>Michael Vito Health Sciences</b>	<b>School of</b> "Effect of Duration of Manual Lumbar Traction on the Straight Leg Raise in Patients with Low 5 and 10 Minutes"	\$360

**STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT AWARDS**

<b>Shontelle Cavanaugh Biological Sciences</b>	"Developmentally Regulated Expression of Members of the Ponticulinn Gene Family"	\$400
<b>Suzette Laing Sciences</b>	<b>Biological</b> "Development of a Fluorescent F-Actin Blot-Overlay Assay"	\$400



The University Research Committee, as part of its charge to promote research by Oakland's faculty, believes it to be particularly important to assist new, untenured faculty in beginning productive research careers. To this end, the committee has given a 10% boost to scores on proposals for URC Research Fellowships by new untenured faculty within three years of hire. This has had the result, in the past two years, of making the funding rate for new faculty and tenured faculty approximately the same. However, there are now many more new faculty being hired, and we believe that the University should do more to assist them at the beginning of their research careers especially as we establish ourselves as a Research 1 institution. Therefore the URC proposes that we change the eligibility rules for the Summer Research Fellowships as follows:

1. New untenured faculty within three years of hire will receive a 10% boost in their scores
2. Untenured faculty are eligible to apply for a Summer Research Fellowship every three years. This effectively allows new faculty to apply twice while they are assistant professors.
3. Tenured faculty are eligible to apply for a Summer Research Fellowship every four years.

These changes in the eligibility rules are expected to increase the proportion of URC Research Fellowships given to new faculty. However, with the recent large increases in the numbers of new hires, which will continue for some time, this is not enough.

We invite the Provost to fund the top eight Summer Research Fellowships for new faculty each year. This increase in the number of fellowships, combined with the proposed eligibility rule changes, will greatly increase the number of Fellowships going to new faculty. Due to the large number of new hires and the subsequent increase in requests for the Summer Research Fellowships, fewer than 50% of the proposals are currently funded. This year, for example, the URC funded 15 of 49 requests (31%). With funding for an additional eight proposals the funding rate would have increased to 47%, and five of the eight would have gone to new, untenured faculty. A review of the awards given in 2001 shows that six of eight additional awards would have been given to new faculty.

In short, given the contractual resources of the URC we are doing what we can to promote research, especially research by new faculty. We believe that given the recent and continuing hiring of large numbers of new faculty, Oakland should be doing more to promote research for these new faculty. If eight more awards could be given specifically to the top eight new faculty proposals, the effect would be multiplied by allowing more awards to be given and many of those additional awards would be likely to go to new faculty.



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OUWB School of Medicine (/medicine)  
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