



OFFICE OF RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES

Research Grants Program Office
University of California, Office of the President
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Oakland, CA 94612
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May 18, 2011

Dear Discovery Grant Recipients and UC Research Community:

We are writing to update you on the status of the UC Discovery Program funded through the UC Office of the President.

As you are aware, UC is anticipating a \$500 million dollar reduction in state funding for fiscal year 2011-12. Due to this severe reduction, support for many programs previously funded directly from the Office of the President will be reduced or eliminated. We find it distressing that we cannot fund all the superb programs the Office of the President has managed over the years, but we take consolation that savings produced by these actions will be redirected to the campuses to lower their proportional share of this extreme cut, and allow them to set priorities at the local level.

The current UC budget for FY 2011-12 assumes that funding for the UC Discovery Grant Program will be eliminated. This means we will not be able to issue a new Discovery RFP or any new matching awards in FY 2011-12 for industry-university cooperative research (that is, Discovery Seed Funding and Discovery Research & Training awards).

Despite cuts to FY 11-12 budget, we are pleased to report that we have been able to reserve money to continue support for the current DSF and DRT grants until their normal termination date. Barring further budget reductions (and contingent on adequate progress, receipt of industry matching funds, and compliance with the terms of your award), currently funded PIs can anticipate that their project will be able to proceed to completion.


We have also set aside funds from the FY 2010-11 budget to be able to proceed with the review of applications submitted in response to the RFP released February 1, 2011 (applications were due April 14, 2011). Due to budget constraints, the review is expected to be extremely competitive with a very limited number of new awards issued.

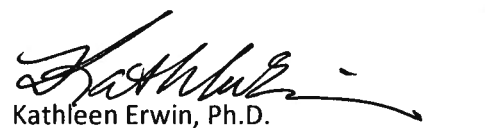
Recognizing the need to continue innovative ways to seed projects that could have impact on the economy through new inventions, we are currently planning to issue a limited RFP next year for our new Proof of Concept program. These plans assume a stable funding base for the University at its present level and would be jeopardized by further cuts to UC budget. For updates on future RFP cycles for all RGPO research programs, please visit our website at <http://www.ucop.edu/research/rgpo/>.

Our commitment to meeting future years' funding obligations for both continuing awards and any new awards issued this cycle is subject to change if the University is forced to absorb additional budget reductions.

We hope this letter addresses any questions you have about the Discovery Program and the status of your currently funded award or submitted application, and wish you continued success in your research endeavors.

Sincerely,


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Research Grants Program Office


Kathleen Erwin, Ph.D.
Director, UC Grants Research Programs
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Cc: Steven Beckwith, Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies