

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Chairs and Directors

From: J. Ian Gray, Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies
Kim Wilcox, Provost

Subject: MSU's response to the Economic Stimulus Package

Date: February 3, 2009

The House version of the Economic Stimulus Package passed last week and the Senate is now moving its version of the legislation forward with a vote anticipated soon. The bill emerging from Conference is currently expected to be signed by President Obama on February 13. Although the complete details in the final bill are not known, there are several proposals found in both the House and Senate versions that will have a significant impact on the research programs of MSU and other universities. The accelerated timeline, and our understanding of how rapidly projects will be initiated once the bill is passed, make it essential for MSU to be prepared to respond aggressively and with considerable urgency.

Among the provisions for infrastructure, workforce education, health care, energy and natural resources are significant proposals for increased science and technology support. The House and Senate versions differ in the magnitude and focus of the funding among the agencies, but it is clear that NIH and NSF will see significant increases. DOE, NASA, NIST and Agriculture may also be targeted for improved funding, but differences between the House and Senate versions have not yet been resolved. Our Government Affairs representatives in Washington have indicated that the increased funding will have several immediate consequences.

1. We can expect very short turnaround (possibly four-week deadline) requests for proposals to be issued in areas either described in the legislation, or at the agency's initiative. Our faculty will have to be prepared to respond to these opportunities on very short notice.
2. It is very likely that the paylines will improve markedly for grants submitted through the normal mechanisms. Therefore, it is imperative that we accelerate and increase the submission of high quality applications in order to benefit from this opportunity.
3. Some of the funding in science and technology will be directed toward infrastructure projects (construction and equipment acquisition) that can be completed within 24 months of the award. Again, it is critical that we identify the real needs of existing, strong programs at MSU now, so that we will be prepared to compete for these initiatives. A passive, "wait and see" approach will not be a recipe for success.

We have asked Doug Gage in the OVPRGS to take the lead in organizing our potential responses to the research components of the economic stimulus package in



OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH
AND GRADUATE
STUDIES

J. Ian Gray
Vice President

Michigan State University
232 Administration Building
East Lansing, MI
48824-1046
517/355-0306
FAX: 517/432-1171
www.msu.edu/unit/vprgs

February 3, 2009

close consultation with the colleges, primarily through the Associate Deans for Research. He is working with Charley Hasemann in the OVPRGS, who will be coordinating the health colleges' responses. Their primary focus will be on infrastructure projects, as well as equipment and major cross-college proposals. Please make sure that you bring to their attention any projects from your units that you believe will be competitive. The assembled lists will be reviewed by MSU leadership. Other than applications requiring matching funds or those with institutionally limited submissions, Central Administration will not attempt to manage individual investigator proposals, although we will be working with CGA and Regulatory Affairs to make sure that the expected increase in submissions will be adequately supported.

To that end, Loraine Hudson in OVPRGS and her staff in Research Facilitation & Dissemination (RFD) will host two special workshops to assist faculty in identifying and responding to stimulus package RFP opportunities on an expedited basis. The workshops, offered in cooperation with Contracts & Grant Administration, will address electronic grants submission via "grants.gov", accurate budget building, and pre- and post-application regulatory issues. Two workshop sessions will be held:

#1 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Friday February 13, 2009
in Union Parlors B & C

#2 8:00 – 10:00 AM, Thursday, February 26, 2009
in Room 1410, Biomedical & Physical Sciences Building

RFD will also provide grant-writing staff assistance to approved institutional, multidisciplinary, and large group proposals. Investigators seeking such assistance should contact Ms. Hudson at ljh@msu.edu or 432-4499. The RFD web site and its "RFPs & Funding Opportunities" blog at <http://resfacil.msu.edu>, as well as the <http://grants.gov> site, may be consulted for new stimulus package announcements.

Please join us in promoting an energetic MSU response to the nation's stimulus package funding.

Cc: Doug Gage
Charley Hasemann
Lori Hudson
Paul Hunt