



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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Constituent Universities
Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School
North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

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January 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: UNC Chief Research Officers

FROM: Dr. Steven Leath, Vice President for Research 

RE: Overview of UNC Sponsored Program Activity, FY2008

Find attached a copy of the FY2008 Research and Sponsored Programs Report to the President, recently presented to the UNC Board of Governors. Despite the stalling economy, competitive external funding obtained by the University of North Carolina continues to grow. For the fifth consecutive year, the portfolio of new external funds topped \$1 billion in FY2008, with awards totaling \$1,112,353,329 overall. This level of continued growth, even in times of flat federal funding, demonstrates the quality and commitment of our faculty and staff.

This year, awards were received from a variety of sponsors, with 64% of awards coming from non-federal sponsors; however, federal funding was responsible for the majority (67%) of awards in real dollars. Of those federal dollars, nearly half are from two agencies, the National Institutes of Health (36%) and the National Science Foundation (8%). Overall, federal dollars increased 2% from FY2007. Industry sponsored awards accounted for just 0.825% of total funds awarded, which signals an area for potential growth.

The FY2008 data indicates UNC's innovation and resourcefulness in a variety of ways. While UNC remains highly competitive in seeking large grants (with UNC-CH, UNCG, NCSU, and NC A&T SU all achieving one or more single awards in excess of \$5 million), the vast majority awards are smaller grants. In FY2008, 95% of all awards were for \$500,000 or less, and 50% of all awards were for less than \$50,000. Maintaining and increasing the diverse body of sponsors who grant these smaller awards is critical. Notably, seven campuses (NCSU, UNC-CH, UNCG, UNCC, ASU, WCCU, UNCW) show three year growth trends in the number of proposals submitted overall. Additionally, the majority of UNC campuses continue to grow with respect to funds awarded, with 10 campuses achieving dollar increases between 8% (UNCG) and 23% (UNCP).

Please review the attached report, and feel free to contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs with any questions or concerns. We at the UNC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs look forward to working with you in 2009 to improve research administration tools across the system, enhance technology transfer efforts, and enable more and better inter-institutional collaboration.