

To: Faculty Council

From: Faculty Committee on Research

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Michael Caplow (Biochemistry), Clayton Koelb (Germanic Languages),
Donald T. Lysle (Psychology) (1998); James L. Leloudis (History), Susan T.
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Re: Progress Report on Survey of Faculty Research Support Needs

Date: April 21, 1998

During the past year, the Faculty Committee on Research has conducted interviews with faculty and administrators in various parts of campus in order to find out about their research needs. These open-ended interviews were also seen as a step toward producing a questionnaire that was sent to all faculty in late March, 1998. 2,337 questionnaires were sent out (1,158 in Academic Affairs; 1,179 in Health Affairs). As of today, 687 questionnaires have been returned and entered in our database (338 in Academic Affairs; 349 in Health Affairs).

This progress report summarizes some of the main findings from the survey. We will continue to analyze the data from the survey, and plan to provide the Faculty Council with a final report in the Fall. The Committee's work has been ably assisted by Jacqueline Resnick and others from Tom Meyer's staff and by Peter Einaudi, Sociology graduate student who is coordinating the data analysis.

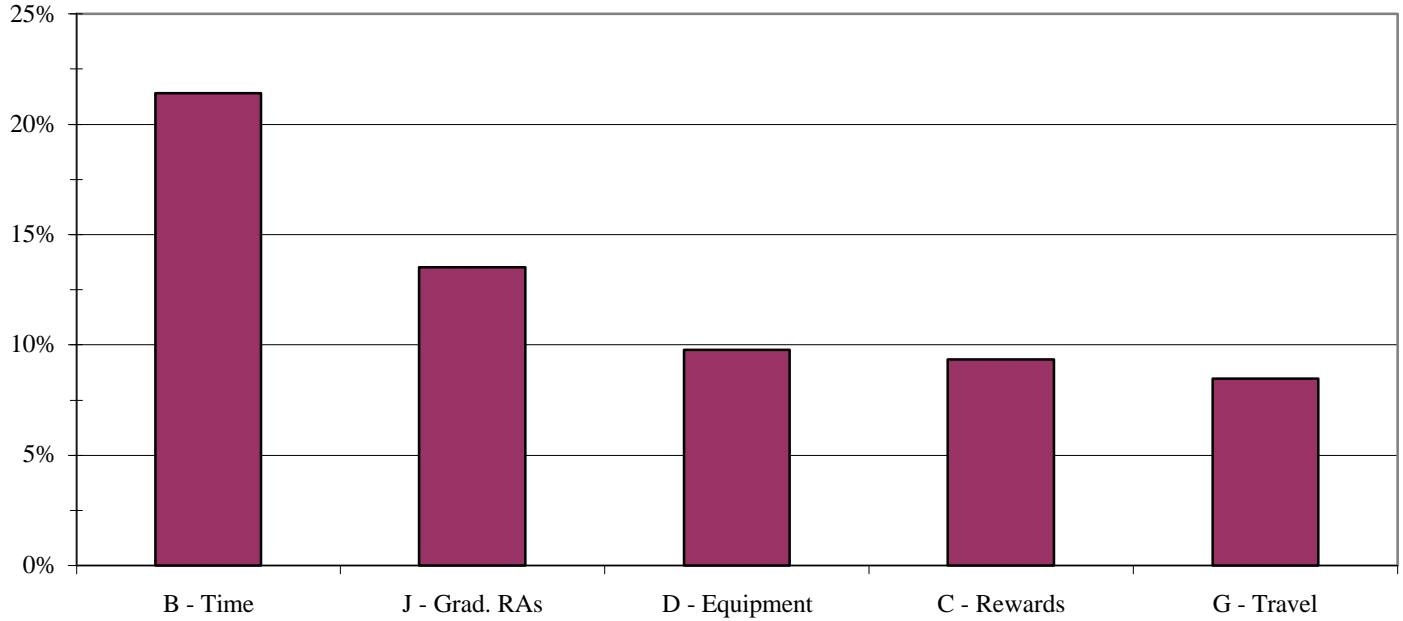
Preliminary Findings

I. Priorities

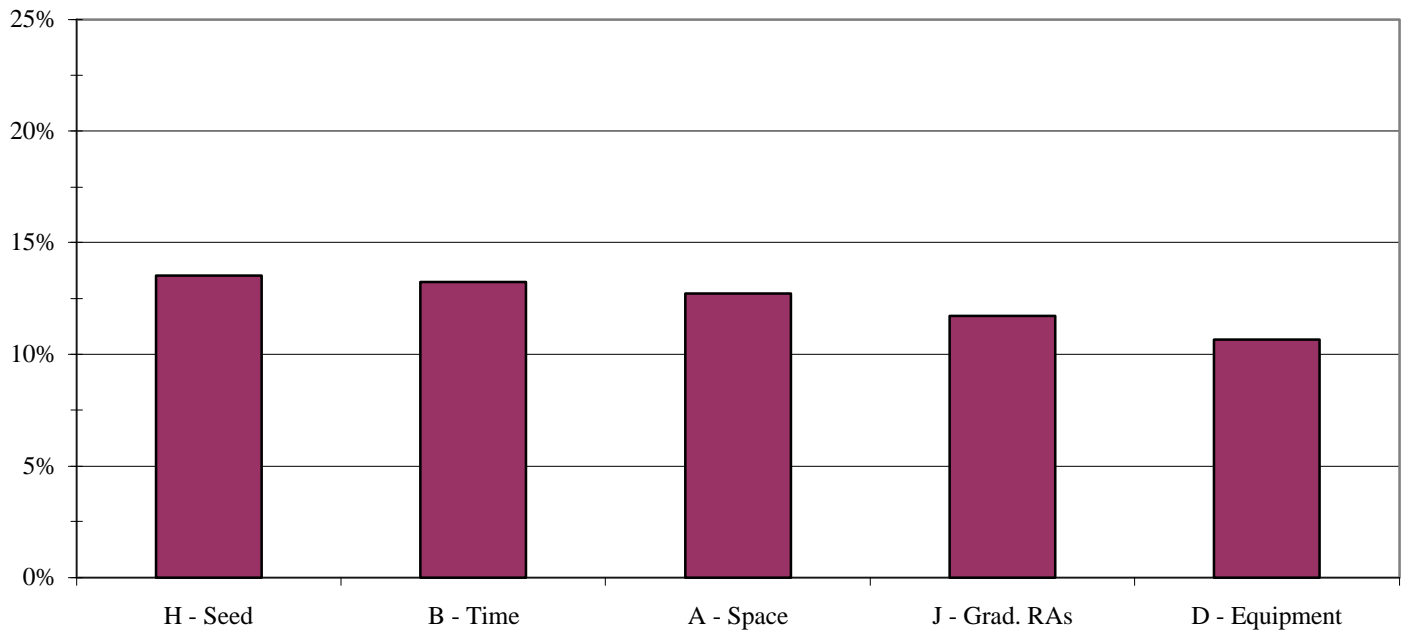
Figure 1 shows the top five research needs as judged by faculty in Academic Affairs and Health Affairs, respectively. (These rankings were drawn from question # 2 in the survey, which asked respondents to rank order the five University research resources that they would most like to see supported.) We find that "time for research" is the largest priority for faculty in Academic Affairs, followed by "funding for graduate research assistants." In Health Affairs, there was a virtual tie between "seed money," "time for research," and "space."

Figure 1. Top Five Research Needs¹

Academic Affairs



Health Affairs



¹ Based on rankings of items in question #2. Percentage shown equals the points received divided by total points allocated, where points are allocated inversely with rankings (I.e., rank 1 = 5 pts, ...rank 5 = 1 pt).

II. Importance of University Resources

Table 1 provides the faculty's average (mean) evaluation of the importance to their research of twelve University research resources. Results are presented separately for faculty in Academic Affairs and Health Affairs.

Table 1 – Faculty Evaluation of Importance of University Research Resources¹

	Academic Affairs		Health Affairs		
	Mean	N	Mean	N	
a. space (office, lab, gallery, space for research support personnel)	3.22	325	3.62	340	*
b. time for research (research and summer leaves, etc.)	3.75	334	3.68	338	
c. rewarding outstanding faculty research with merit-based salary increases	3.24	327	2.99	342	*
d. funding for research equipment (computers, etc.)	3.19	324	3.33	337	
e. funding to help faculty use technology (software, etc.)	2.64	325	2.66	332	
f. library resources (Journals, access to information and resources)	3.51	331	3.49	344	
g. funding for professional travel	3.20	329	2.87	340	*
h. seed money (research project development, etc.)	2.92	301	3.26	336	*
I. bridge funding (support between grant funds, etc.)	2.67	246	3.28	319	*
j. funding for graduate students	3.24	323	3.29	316	
k. funding for postdoctoral fellows	2.57	254	3.05	312	*
l. funding for department/unit administrative support staff	3.05	324	3.15	337	
Number of Responses		338		349	

¹ Importance is based on a scale from “very important” (4) to “unimportant” (1).

² An asterisk (*) indicates that the difference between the means for Academic and Health Affairs is statistically significant at $p < .01$.

III. Satisfaction with University Resources

Table 2 indicates the faculty's average (mean) satisfaction with the twelve University research resources.

Table 2 – Faculty Satisfaction with Current University Research Resources¹

	Academic Affairs		Health Affairs		
	Mean	N	Mean	N	
a. space (office, lab, gallery, space for research support personnel)	2.62	317	2.17	331	*
b. time for research (research and summer leaves, etc.)	2.19	328	2.22	331	
c. rewarding outstanding faculty research with merit-based salary increases	2.42	302	2.26	310	
d. funding for research equipment (computers, etc.)	2.37	310	2.27	328	
e. funding to help faculty use technology (software, etc.)	2.50	291	2.51	295	
f. library resources (Journals, access to information and resources)	2.93	324	3.24	338	*
g. funding for professional travel	2.23	321	2.28	321	
h. seed money (research project development, etc.)	2.24	267	2.37	319	
I. bridge funding (support between grant funds, etc.)	2.07	174	2.13	264	
j. funding for graduate students	1.91	304	1.94	290	
k. funding for postdoctoral fellows	2.12	194	2.18	274	
l. funding for department/unit administrative support staff	2.10	299	2.04	317	
Number of Responses		338		349	

¹ Satisfaction is based on a scale from “very satisfied” (4) to “very dissatisfied” (1).

² An asterisk (*) indicates that the difference between the means for Academic and Health Affairs is statistically significant at $p < .01$

IV. Importance of and Satisfaction with University Practices and Services

Table 3 provides the faculty's average (mean) evaluation of the importance to their research of seven current University practices and services, while Table 4 provides their average (mean) satisfaction with each of these practices. Faculty in Academic Affairs and Health Affairs both rate the distribution of overhead (both to units and to Principal Investigators) as something which is very important to them but with which they are relatively dissatisfied.

Table 3 - Faculty Evaluation of Importance of University Practices and Services¹

	Academic Affairs		Health Affairs		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	
m. availability of funding opportunity information	3.08	316	3.21	334	
n. notification of specific funding opportunities	3.02	312	3.24	332	*
o. availability of matching funds	3.15	264	3.06	315	
p. support for multidisciplinary grant development	2.76	282	3.21	318	*
q. access to funding opportunities from foundations and/or industry	3.03	287	3.24	328	*
r. amount of overhead (\$ from grants) distributed to units (departments, schools, centers)	3.28	260	3.48	326	*
s. amount of overhead distributed to the Principal Investigator	3.14	239	3.42	319	*
Number of Responses		338		349	

¹ Importance is based on a scale from "very important" (4) to "unimportant" (1).

² An asterisk (*) indicates that the difference between the means for Academic and Health Affairs is statistically significant at $p < .01$

Table 4 - Faculty Satisfaction with Current University Practices and Services¹

	Academic Affairs		Health Affairs		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	
m. availability of funding opportunity information	2.96	304	3.01	326	
n. notification of specific funding opportunities	2.87	298	2.91	321	
o. availability of matching funds	2.06	206	1.98	243	
p. support for multidisciplinary grant development	2.31	212	2.22	262	
q. access to funding opportunities from foundations and/or industry	2.33	243	2.36	288	
r. amount of overhead (\$ from grants) distributed to units (departments, schools, centers)	1.81	229	1.64	299	*
s. amount of overhead distributed to the Principal Investigator	1.79	209	1.64	293	
Number of Responses		338		349	

¹ Satisfaction is based on a scale from "very satisfied" (4) to "very dissatisfied" (1).

² An asterisk (*) indicates that the difference between the means for Academic and Health Affairs is statistically significant at $p < .01$