



Dartmouth College

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## Annual Report of the Council on Sponsored Activities Fiscal Year 2008

The Council on Sponsored Activities (CSA) is responsible for proposing and endorsing internal policies regulating activities sponsored by agencies outside the College. In addition, the CSA proposes and endorses institutional positions in response to policies of external sponsoring agencies as they affect the College. On a periodic basis, the CSA reviews the scope and impact of sponsored activities in the relation to institutional purpose. The membership of the committee shall consist of the Provost, the Treasurer, the General Counsel (OGC), the Director of Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), the Deans of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Dartmouth Medical School (DMS), Thayer School of Engineering, Tuck Business School, two faculty members appointed by the Steering Committee of the General Faculty (SCGF) and two members from the Faculty of Arts & Sciences delegated from the voting membership of the Committee on the Faculty (COF).

During the 2008 academic year, the CSA met four times: September 26, 2007; December 13, 2007; February 25, 2008; and May 19, 2008. The members were: Joyce DeLeo (SCGF); Robert Donin (OGC); Tillman Gerngross (SCGF); Robert Hansen (representing the Tuck School Dean); William Hickey (representing the Medical School Dean); Adam Keller (Executive Vice-President); Lee Lynd (representing the Thayer School Dean); Robertson McClung (representing the Dean of the Faculty); Jeffrey Taube (COF); Antonio Gómez (COF); Nancy Wray (OSP); and Martin Wybourne (Vice Provost for Research), chair.

The CSA had several ongoing activities from the 2007 academic year. Some concluded during this academic year, others will continue into 2009. The main activities in 2008 were the following:

### Research Conflict of Interest (COI)

The CSA continued the discussion about the College's research COI policy and procedures. The Council provided guidance to an effort undertaken jointly by OSP and the Provost's Office to streamline and strengthen the process within the existing policy. Acting on external advice, the process was moved into the Provost's Office where additional resources could provide oversight. The revised process has the provision for peer-level assistance to develop management plans. At present only the Thayer school has a mechanism in place to provide this help. In the future, other areas at Dartmouth will be approached to see if they are able to provide similar assistance.

The research COI process is still paper intensive. Faculty and staff, including members of the Council, are evaluating a COI web-based tool that is a module of the COEUS grant management system.

A continuing challenge is faculty representation on the Conflict of Interest Sub-committee of the CSA.

NIH Public Access Policy

The Council provided advice about raising awareness and helping faculty comply with the mandatory NIH Public Access policy that came into effect on April 7, 2008. A website with background information, documentation and guidance was developed by OSP and a memorandum about the policy and the help available at Dartmouth was sent to the Academic Deans for dissemination to the faculty.

Dartmouth Internet Security Testbed (DIST)

The Council spent a significant amount of time considering the ramifications of DIST, which is a federally funded project to study traffic patterns on the Dartmouth network. Of primary concern were the mechanisms needed to ensure the privacy of users is not compromised. The project leader Professor Kotz, Computer Science, made several presentations to the Council that resulted in a number of recommendations to the Provost, including one to engage an independent expert to examine the processes and procedures put in place to maintain privacy. The CSA found that one aspect of the project presented too high a risk for the College and recommended that it not proceed. The Provost accepted the recommendations and acted on them.

Sponsored Awards and Proposals for FY 2008

The summary of the Annual Sponsored Awards and Proposals for FY2008 is attached to this report and the complete report will be located at the Sponsored Projects website (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/>).

During the year the CSA had an update from Dr. Murray Korc, Chair of Medicine, about the Clinical and Translational Science Award application being prepared by the medical school.

Ombudsperson Mary Childers met with the CSA to discuss a number of general issues related to post-doctoral fellows. The CSA recommended that the Provost's Office work with Mary Childers, the graduate studies office and other faculty to discuss postdoctoral programs at Dartmouth.

The Council was regularly updated on the search for a Director of OSP to succeed Nancy Wray who will be retiring from the College in December 2008.

I hope this information provides a helpful summary of the CSA activities during the year, please contact me if more information or clarification is needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Wybourne  
Chair, Council on Sponsored Activities

4 September 2008