

March 9, 1967

Dr. Leland J. Haworth, Director
National Science Foundation
Washington, D. C. 20550

Dear Dr. Haworth:

At its recent annual meeting the members of the Midwestern Association of Chemistry Teachers in Liberal Arts Colleges (commonly known as MACTLAC) passed a motion requesting its Executive Council to draft a letter to your office regarding a matter of concern to the membership. MACTLAC comprises some 400 members drawn from 140 liberal arts colleges in 7 midwestern states.

It is the opinion of this body that one of the most effective programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation is its Undergraduate Research Participation Program, but we have reason to believe that it is a program which receives a disproportionately low share of the NSF budget in view of its effectiveness. In order to become better informed of all aspects of the problem, we would appreciate the answers to the following questions, if the information is available:

For each of the last eight years:

1. What has been the URP budget and the total NSF budget?
2. How many grants were given?
If possible, kindly describe the number of grants in terms of:
 - (a) number of schools with less than 1500 undergraduate students;
 - (b) number of schools with 1500-2500 undergraduate students;
 - (c) number of schools with 2500-5000 undergraduate students;
 - (d) number of schools with over 5000 undergraduate students.
3. Of the grants made, what fraction of the grants have been new grants as opposed to continuation of existing programs? Kindly describe the number of grants in terms of:
 - (a) number of schools with less than 1500 undergraduate students;
 - (b) number of schools with 1500-2500 undergraduate students;
 - (c) number of schools with 2500-5000 undergraduate students;
 - (d) number of schools with over 5000 undergraduate students.
4. How many URP participants continued on to graduate school? If possible, kindly describe the number of participants in terms of:
 - (a) participants from schools with an enrollment of less than 2500 students;
 - (b) participants from schools with an enrollment of more than 2500 students.
5. What is the relationship between grants made and proposals received? If possible, kindly describe the numbers in terms of:
 - (a) schools with an enrollment of less than 2500 students;
 - (b) schools with an enrollment of more than 2500 students.
6. Does the Foundation have any information with regard to the projected future of this program?
7. Are URP funds at large universities with graduate programs more productive than at undergraduate liberal arts colleges?

We would certainly appreciate your efforts in helping supply answers to these questions.

Yours very truly,



John W. Coutts
President, MACTLAC,
1966-67

cc:

Dr. John T. Wilson
Dr. Donald C. McGuire
Dr. L. Phillips
Dr. Thomas D. Fontaine
Dr. Richard Bayer

JWC:hh