

# THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES OFFICE

WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE GREAT LAKES COLLEGES ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

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Memorandum Number 645B

October 11, 1983

DRAFT

TO: ICO Friends and Allies

FROM: Ida Wallace, Director

SUBJECT: Research in Undergraduate Institutions: Advance Guidelines for National Science Foundation Initiative

PLEASE DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE FOR INTERESTED FACULTY

Here at last are the official guidelines for the National Science Foundation's Research in Undergraduate Institutions, which emerged as a result of your action with NSF and the Congress on this special initiative. We hope you and your scientist colleagues have been waiting with bated breath for the opportunities this two-pronged program offers for research grants (with or without an instrumentation request) or for research instrumentation support only.

**The vital message to science, social science and mathematics faculty involved in research is this: Submit applications. If we do not convince the National Science Foundation and the Congress of the need for these programs we will surely lose them.**

Our hold is tenuous and due to a serendipitous configuration of events which included the appointment of a new Director of NSF, who understands good undergraduate education, an outstanding effort by an association of undergraduate college chemistry faculty researchers, concerted legislative action from a handful of administrators and scientists in undergraduate colleges around the country, including yours, and the special efforts of Representative Martin Sabo of Minnesota. Senate opposition was mitigated by letters and calls from some of you to key Senators, as well.

A rough gauge within NSF for total Research Directorate support to undergraduate institutions has been set at \$13.4 million, with \$5.0 million of that amount designated by Congress for research instrumentation and the remainder for all other research grants. The key seems to be a tiny one per cent of the entire NSF budget. Your proposals may justify a greater share.

For faculty planning to apply to the program (may your names be legion) we note a few significant requirements stated in the program announcement. The Independent Colleges Office invites your views and reactions for recommending clarifications or changes for the future.

- + The Research in Undergraduate Institutions program (RUI) incorporates, with some changes, our old friend, the Two- and Four-Year College Research Instrumentation program. (Howard Hines, we have learned, will no longer coordinate this program. No one has as yet been named to this job which is newly defined.)
- + Peer review and evaluation will be the responsibility of program staff within the research divisions. Please help the Independent Colleges Office monitor this process by requesting and sharing with us reviewers' comments -- win, lose or draw. We will keep all identities confidential.

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- + Each RUI application must include a description of expected impact of the proposed research on the research environment of the department and its ability to prepare students for science and engineering careers. Three major goals to be addressed are: 1) direct student experience and training in research; 2) increased faculty participation in mainstream research as it improves student preparation; and 3) the effect of acquisition of research instrumentation on improved faculty and student research opportunities.
- + Eligible research may be based at the home institution or a research institution. Instrumentation will not be funded for a host (as opposed to home) institution. Undergraduates from the home institution may be funded at either base.
- + The principal or co-principal investigator must be employed at the home institution when the proposal is submitted and during the grant period.

A copy of the final version of the guidelines is enclosed. We encourage you to duplicate and distribute them widely.

Good luck!

enclosure: rui guidelines