

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Update on Research Funding: Preparing for a Decrease in Federal Funding

This will be an oral report for information only.

*Attachment*

Update on Research Funding: Preparing for a Decrease in Federal Funding

# Update on Research Funding: Preparing for a Decrease in Federal Funding

Mary Lidstrom  
Vice Provost for Research



9/15/2011

## Role of Research in our Academic Mission

- Funds experiential learning for graduate students and undergraduate students
  - Estimated to be \$200M in FY11
  - Impacts on the order of 5000 students each year



- Funds high-level discovery that contributes to our knowledge base and our reputation
  - One of our three core missions



9/15/2011

## Role of Research in our Instructional Mission



Myth: strong researchers are poor teachers

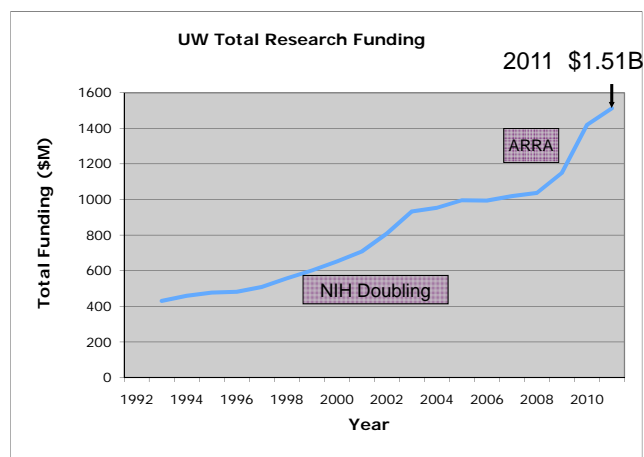
Fact: 1/3 of our distinguished teaching award winners are also strong researchers; over half of the Brotman awards have gone to programs with strength in research

Fact: strong researchers bring the excitement of their discoveries into the classroom

Fact: research enhances the instructional mission inside and outside the classroom

9/15/2011

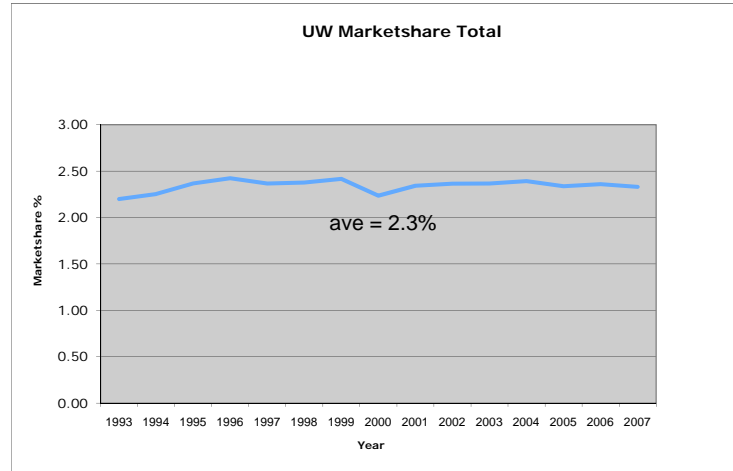
## UW Grant & Contract Funding Trends 1991 - 2011



- Research funding has doubled twice in the past 20 years
- Major increases during the period of NIH doubling 1998-2003.

9/15/2011

## UW Marketshare of Federal Research Funding has Remained Constant



Last 4 years, our marketshare has gone up  
Currently estimated at 2.6%

9/15/2011

## Positive Signs of Strong Competitiveness

Federal marketshare is increasing

ARRA marketshare was high

NSF and NIH marketshare = 2%

ARRA marketshare = 2.8%

### Why are we so competitive?

#### Main drivers:

New research space that has come online in the past few years

High quality faculty do well in a tight funding climate

We have both breadth and depth

9/15/2011

## Predicted Decreases in Federal Research Funding from Debt Reduction Plan

From *Science*, Aug. 12  
FY12, FY13: no significant decrease  
FY14: 7-10% decrease

We predict an increasing marketshare will counterbalance decreases in total funding

In FY12, due to loss of ARRA funds, we may drop ~5%  
In FY13, we should increase back to FY11 levels  
In FY14 we may experience a small net drop

9/15/2011

## Modeling a 5% Decrease Over 3 years shrinkage of the research enterprise

5% decrease of federal funding = \$52.5M  
Decreased funding for graduate students  
Fewer research-related employees  
Fewer publications and research breakthroughs

In the state:  
Loss of jobs and tax revenue

**How is the UW responding?**

9/15/2011

## Response if Research Funding Declines 5%

Timing provides 2-3 years for a planned and phased response

Fixed costs cannot be mitigated (mainly debt service)

All other costs can be phased down over a few years

- Fewer graduate students admitted
- Fewer post-docs hired
- Some projects carried out in leased space could move to UW space
- Support infrastructure phased down through attrition

9/15/2011

## Proactive Steps to Maintain Competitiveness

- Focus on recruiting and retaining top faculty
- Targeted investment in key research facilities
- Targeted investment in infrastructure for increasing our marketshare

9/15/2011

## SUMMARY

Increasing competitiveness suggests impacts of decreased federal research funding at UW as a whole will be relatively minor

Specific areas may have a very difficult time

Nevertheless, we know how to downsize the research enterprise and have considered steps to take

9/15/2011