

Office of the Vice President for Research

# **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009**

## **Opportunities for New Research Awards: *Economic Stimulus***

**Jorge V. José**  
**Vice President for Research**

**Town Hall Meetings with the Faculty and Research Community**  
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# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”)

## THIS IS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

- The Act is, at heart, an *economic stimulus package*:
  - Enables a **finite time** U.S. investment in America’s scientific enterprise
  - Preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery
  - Provide investments to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health

# 2009 ARRA

- Implementation of the Act is evolving as federal agencies that will receive ARRA funds are planning for **rapid** and **responsible** investment
- Two year plan
  - All funds must be obligated by the funding agencies by September 30, 2010
  - Decisions to be made and reported within 120 days to the White House and to Congress

# 2009 ARRA

- Web resources for up-to-date information:
  - <http://www.recovery.gov/>
  - <http://www.aau.edu/>
  - <http://www.research.buffalo.edu>
- All federal agencies receiving ARRA funds are expected to develop links on their web sites for ARRA-specific funding opportunities – these links are still in development (as of 2/24/09)

# 2009 ARRA

- The focus of this presentation is on ARRA funds to federal agencies that support ***RESEARCH***
- There will be other ARRA opportunities to support education (student financial aid, higher education modernization, renovation and repair), from which UB and other universities may benefit

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”)

Most important message to convey:

Any new awards made as a result of this Act

**WILL NOT BE RESEARCH BUSINESS**  
**AS USUAL!**

NIH

# NIH

- \$10.4 billion to NIH
- Of that, \$8.2 billion for extramural programs
  - \$7.4 billion to NIH Institutes and Centers (based on NIH percentage-based formula); will support three different funding mechanisms:

# NIH

- 1. New R01s** – NIH Institutes will go down payline for highly meritorious projects
  - Not necessarily formulaic; may have some geographic distribution
  - Projects must be effective with **only TWO YEARS OF FUNDING** – NIH program directors will determine this in consultation with PIs
  - Detailed quarterly reporting will be required – will need to report on local economic impact (e.g. # of new jobs, other metrics)

# NIH

2. Supplement existing grants – add funds to existing grants only if can convincingly be expanded from original
  - Supplements for equipment purchases to further aims of existing projects are possible
- Report on evidence for local economic impact will be required of these supplemental awards

# NIH

3. New Challenge grant program awards \$500K per year for two years (RFA under development)
  - Looking for broad cross-cutting research to advance science in a substantive way – programs that represent unique challenge to the discipline(s)

# NIH – other award mechanisms

- \$800 million retained by NIH Director “for purposes that can be completed within two years”
- \$400 million for Comparative Effectiveness Research (transferred from AHRQ - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)
- \$1.3 billion for NCRR (National Center for Research Resources)
  - \$1 billion for competitive awards for construction and/or renovation of research facilities
  - \$300 million for shared instrumentation, capital research equipment

# NIH

- All new awards as a result of this Act must be spent in two years
- These awards not part of NIH base budget
- There are additional reporting requirements
- **All PIs** with pending applications just below payline should be reviewing projects to determine if aims adjusted or reduced can be accomplished in two years
  - **CONTACT PROGRAM OFFICERS**
  - **START ACTING NOW**

# NIH

- Institutions must be prepared for prompt response to NIH if project can truly be accomplished in two years
  - If project cannot be accomplished in two years, institution should **NOT** accept this funding
  - A public web site showing dollars awarded and spending patterns will be established – to ensure **transparency and accountability to the public**
- We will watch for new RFAs for specific new funding announcements, and will communicate to UB community

# NIH - Summary

- All awards “two year money” – project aims must be accomplished within two years and funds must be spent in two years
- Detailed quarterly reports will be required
- In addition to normal scientific merits, local economic impact metrics must be specified
  - Number of new staff hired
  - Dollar impact in other ways
- **THESE AWARDS WILL NOT BE BUSINESS AS USUAL**

**NSF**

# NSF

- \$3 billion overall:
  - \$2.5 billion for research and related activities
  - \$300 million for major research instrumentation
  - \$200 million for academic research facilities modernization

# NSF

- NSF focus is on increasing success rate of proposals
- Will reach **back to October 2008** for proposals that have not been funded
  - **NSF will not reverse decision** to fund a declined proposal
  - NSF has in pipeline ~ 3,000 proposals rated Very Good to Excellent from which they will draw to make new awards
  - Will make standard grants of 2, 3, 4 or 5 years duration; all money will be obligated in first year

# NSF

- \$100 million for Education and Human Resources:
  - \$60 million for Robert Noyce Scholarships
  - \$25 million for Math and Science Partnerships
  - \$15 million for Professional Science Master's Program
- \$400 million for major research equipment and facilities construction

DOE

# DOE

- \$1.6 billion to fund research
  - Climate science, biofuels, high-energy physics, nuclear physics and fusion energy science
- \$400 million to new agency, Department of Energy Advance Research Projects Agency
  - To support high-risk, high-payoff research into energy sources and energy efficiency in collaboration with industry

**NASA**

# NASA

- **\$ 1 billion overall:**
  - Science: \$400 million
  - Aeronautics: \$150 million
  - Cross agency: \$50 million
  - Exploration: \$400 million

# Possible UB Projects

## ■ NIH

- PIs near funding payout who can accomplish aims in two years
- New RFAs for equipment, facilities (construction or renovation)
- Innovative projects under new challenge grant program
  - New RFA will be issued shortly; fast-track for shortened application and funding decision

# Possible UB Projects

## ■ NSF

- PIs with proposals pending since October 2008 with Very Good to Excellent reviews
- Major instrumentation grant proposals already in the pipeline
- Academic research facilities – a program that has not been operating since 1996. Funded competitively; **shovel-ready SEAS** building could be a candidate for this program.

# Possible UB Projects

- **NSF** (continued)
  - Education and Human Resources – the directorate that funds IGERT program, Nanotechnology Undergraduate Program and ADVANCE (increasing participation of women in science and engineering)
  - Robert Noyce; Math and Science Partnership; Professional Masters – UB has submitted proposals to these programs last year, may be able to resubmit
  - Major Research Facilities construction – for cutting edge facilities with unique capabilities. Earthquake Center and MCEER may be a good candidate

# Possible UB Projects

## ■ DOE

- Pending proposals for UB EFRC (Energy Frontier Research Centers) – if reviewed as highly meritorious
- PIs with pending proposals rated as highly meritorious AND meeting previously stated DOE themes:
  - Climate science, biofuels, high-energy physics, nuclear physics and fusion energy science

# Possible UB Projects

- What should PIs be doing now?
  - Most research agencies will utilize majority of ARRA funds by drawing on existing pool of highly meritorious projects that fell below the payline, and could not be funded due to existing budget limitations...

(continued...)

# What UB PIs should be doing now

- If your pending proposal falls into this category (highly meritorious, just below payline), you are likely the “target audience”, and you should begin planning now
  - Review original project aims – can they be modified such that aims adjusted or reduced can be accomplished in two years?
  - Look at original budget; make modifications
    - Could result in higher budget in Years 1 and 2 to accommodate project acceleration

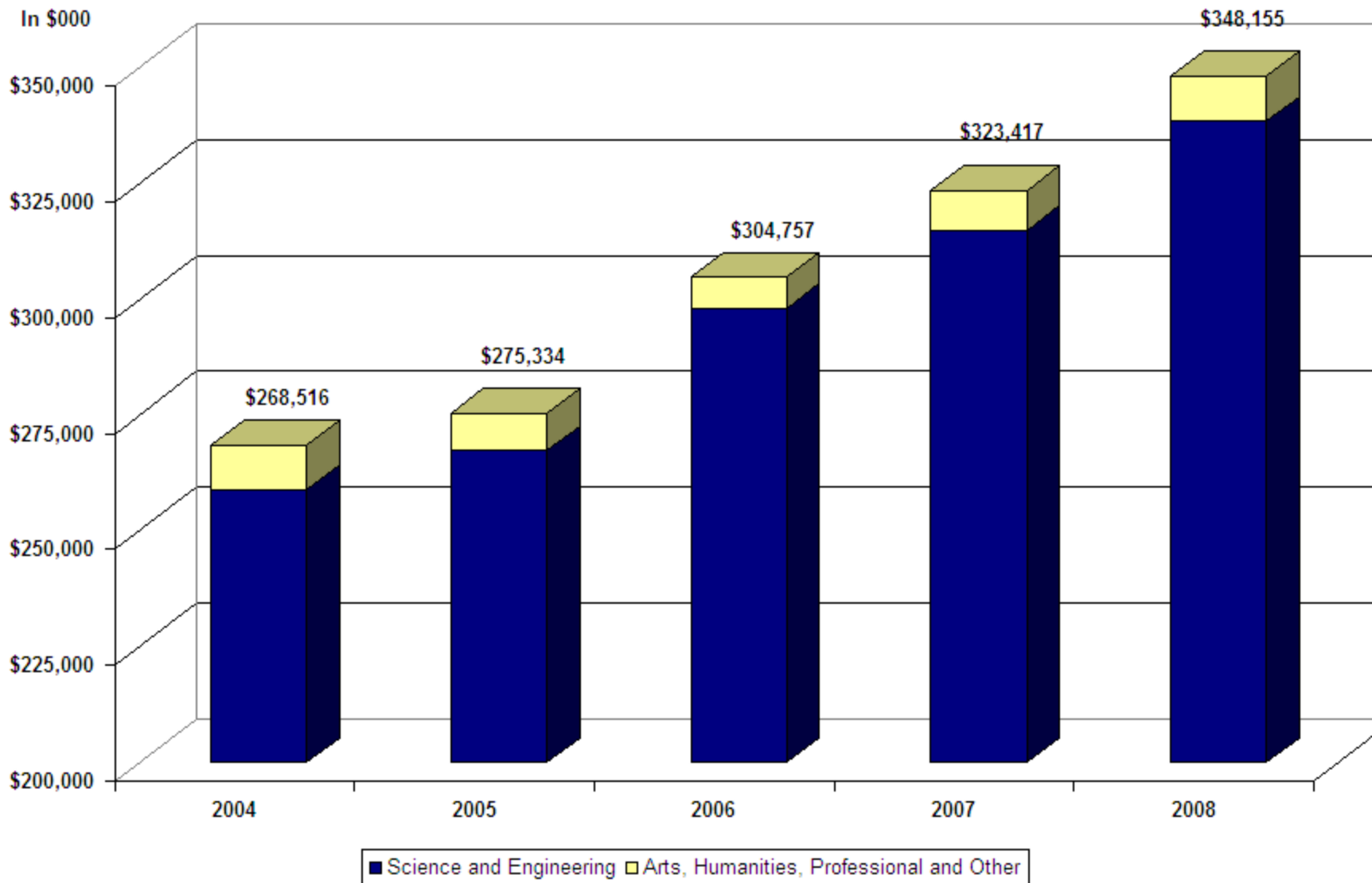
# What UB PIs should be doing now

- Contact Agency Program Officials
- Contact SPS and OVPR
- Begin planning for specialized RFAs that will be announced shortly
- OVPR web site will include direct links for information updates:

<http://www.research.buffalo.edu/>

# BTW: Current Picture: UB Research Expenditures

Total UB Research Expenditures



# ARRA Funds: Possible UB Impact

- Targeted dollars must positively impact UB's research expenditures – to the degree we receive these awards – as these funds would be **in addition** to existing normal federal funding opportunities

# Key Points

- Potential for new targeted funds from various federal agencies
- Funded quickly; project aims accomplished over next two years (NIH)
- Unprecedented reporting requirements – will need to show economic impact on local communities
  - All spending will require transparency and accountability, beyond what institutions normally provide

**THIS IS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL**

- Thank you for your attention
- Any questions???

This slide presentation will be loaded on the OVPR web site by start of business tomorrow 02/26/2009