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Funding for UC's Research Programs

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

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UC Is State's Primary Research Institution

- The *Master Plan for Higher Education* designates the University of California (UC) as the state's primary research institution.

- The research undertaken by UC faculty addresses both academic and societal needs, as well as generates substantial revenue for the university.

- The UC's research programs, which periodically change depending on priorities and available resources, can range from agricultural productivity to advances in health care. Some research areas are in part determined by the sponsor of the research (such as the federal government), while others are based on the state's or the university's own priorities.

- Each year, UC receives research funding from the state, federal government, not-for profit institutions, and for-profit companies. In 2006-07, UC received about \$3.4 billion for research from all fund sources.



UC Research Funding

2006-07 **(In Millions)**

	Amount
General Fund	\$283
State special funds	30
Federal funds ^a	1,800
Other funds	1,287
Total	\$3,400

^a Does not include funding received for the operation of the three Department of Energy laboratories managed by UC.

- The 2006-07 budget included \$283 million in General Fund support for UC's research programs. The university can allocate most of these funds based on its research priorities. Only a small amount is restricted by budget act language for specific research institutes (such as the labor research institute).

- The UC periodically reviews its existing portfolio of research programs to determine if any adjustments in the allocation of funding are needed to accommodate changing priorities, which sometimes results in the merger or elimination of programs.

- In addition to the above \$3.4 billion specifically designated for research, a significant portion of funding for instruction (such as equipment and faculty salaries) also support faculty research activities.



Selected UC Research Program and Units

Systemwide Research Programs	
AIDS Research	Institute for Software Research
Biotechnology Research	Los Angeles
Chicano/Latino Policy Research	American Indian Studies Center
Environmental Research	Asian American Studies Center
Toxic Substance Research	Brain Research Center
Academic Geriatric Resource Program	Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies
Pacific Rim Research	Center for African American Studies
Labor Research	Center for Chinese Studies
California Policy Research Center	Center for European and Russian Studies
Berkeley	Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Archeological Research Facility	Center for the Study of Women
Cancer Research Laboratory	Chicano Studies Research Center
Center for African Studies	Cotsen Institute for Archeology
Center for Environmental Design Research	Institute for Social Science Research
Center for Latin American Studies	Institute of Industrial Relations
Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics	Ralph J. Bunch Center for African Studies
Center for South Asia Studies	Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Center for Southeast Asian Studies	Latin American Studies
Center for the Study of Sexual Culture	Molecular Biology Institute
Earthquake Engineering Research Center	Riverside
Environmental Sciences Policy and Management	Air Pollution Research Center
Functional Genomics Laboratory	Center for Ideas and Society
Institute for Environmental Science	Center for Social and Behavioral Science
Institute for Business and Economic research	Presley Center for Crime and Justice
Institute for East Asian Studies	San Diego
Institute for Governmental Studies	Biology Center
Institute for Human Development	Cancer Center
Institute for International Studies	Center for Astrophysics and Space Science
Institute for European Studies	Center for Energy and Combustion Research
Institute for Personality and Social Research	Center for US-Mexican Studies
Institute for Urban and Regional Development	Institute for Global Conflict
Space Sciences Laboratory	San Francisco
Davis	Cancer Research Institute
Biotechnology Program	Cardiovascular Research Institute
Crocker Nuclear Laboratory	Hormone Research Laboratory
Institute of Governmental Affairs	Metabolic Research Unit
John Muir Institute of the Environment	Santa Barbara
Toxicology and Environmental Health	Center for Ecological Analysis
Irvine	Center for Chicano Studies
Cancer Research Institute	Marine Science Institute
Critical Theory Institute	Santa Cruz
Developmental Biology Center	Institute of Marine Sciences
Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia	Humanities Research
	Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics



Governor's Research Proposals

- Expand California Institutes for Science and Innovation (\$15 Million Augmentation).*** The Governor's budget proposes a \$15 million increase in funding for the California Institutes for Science and Innovation, for a total of \$19.8 million—a quadrupling in the level of funding. These institutes enable UC faculty to work directly with private companies on such issues as biomedical research and traffic congestion.

- Establish Petascale Supercomputer (\$5 million Augmentation).*** The budget includes \$5 million to enhance UC's chances of winning a national competition for a Petascale Supercomputer (named for the high speed at which it can process information) funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). (The NSF does not require a direct match from states.)

- Eliminate Labor Research Institute (\$6 Million Reduction).*** The Governor proposes to eliminate all General Fund support for UC's labor research institute, for savings of \$6 million.



LAO Recommendation: Reject Proposed Research Augmentations



Lack of Adequate Justification

- The administration and the university have been unable to provide adequate information to justify the additional \$20 million.
- For the California Institutes for Science and Innovation, UC simply states that the institutes are currently underfunded and that the proposed augmentation would move each institute toward a more fully funded operating budget.
- The UC tells us that it is not disclosing the details of its Petascale supercomputer proposal in order to remain competitive. As a result, the Legislature will not have an opportunity to review the details of the project it is being asked to fund.



Existing Research Funds Could Be Reallocated

- The annual state budget provides general purpose research funding that UC allocates among competing priorities. For 2007-08, the Governor's budget generally maintains UC's base General Fund research budget at its current-year level of roughly \$280 million.
- If UC considers expanding the California Institutes for Science and Innovation and establishing a Petascale supercomputer to be high research priorities, then the university can redirect funding from existing research programs that it deems are of lower priority.