

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

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RICHA RD VICE CHANCELLOR
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE AFFAIRS

March 16, 2001

Attn, PL 106-107 Comments
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 517-D
Washington D.C. 20201

**Subject: University of California at Riverside, Comments on Public Law 106-107
Grant-Making Process**

We at UC Riverside would like to reiterate the key message conveyed in the system-wide response for the University of California, namely, the need to ensure that all elements of the federal grant-making process become standardized, simplified to the greatest extent possible, and applied consistently by all federal sponsors and programs. The University's letter of March 13, 2001, developed after intensive consultation and input from its various constituents, provided a long list of specific recommendations in answer to the questions listed in the request for comments on how the federal grant-making agencies could best implement Public Law 106-107. These extensive comments should be used as a road map to facilitate significant improvements and modernization of the federal grant and, ultimately, contract management systems.

For the federal government to achieve the goal of sponsoring well conceived and implemented projects to be undertaken by a large array of award recipients, it is essential that standard, well understood systems are put in place. Items such as reasonable minimum advance notice requirements for program announcements (e.g., 60 days prior to the deadline) and standard formats for the content of these announcements are needed. Previously defined data elements for proposal applications and award management should be consistently implemented. Standard, government-wide forms should be instituted. Electronic means which are being developed should be uniform for all programs and agencies.

These are just some examples of the many tasks ahead of us. As these numerous recommendations are implemented, the savings to the U. S. Government and the awardees, both in monetary terms and time expended, would be enormous. Training of both federal and recipient staffs would be facilitated. Most importantly, the programmatic results would

advance the production and implementation of new knowledge and improve the quality of life for our citizens and the world at large.

Because so much is at stake, we urge you to accept the recommendations made by the University of California and to utilize the information provided to the greatest extent feasible in achieving this critical mission.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Luben,
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