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Subject Science-based funding strategy for FY06



A New Strategy for Biology.doc

Dear Principal Investigators,

This message has two linked objectives:

- 1) To inform you that the Biology funding sources (programs) for 2006 are being entered into BASIS. Permanent Biology salary requests for 2006 will be reduced from 26.1 to 21.1 pay periods, with the expectation that you will be able to put 5 pay periods on reimbursable, cyclical, or other (non-Biology) program funds. This does not mean we are asking for a lower base funds allocation in 2006; we expect to get the same amount in FY06 as we did in FY05.
- 2) To provide you with a copy of Jeff's proposed strategy for moving to a science-based funding strategy.

Although there have been meetings and discussion on the topics of looming base deficits and a transition to science-based funding, I certainly understand that we may seem to be taking abrupt action with Objective 1. This action was precipitated by an e-mail from Bob Szaro, Chief Scientist for Biology, saying that we have to have our funding entered into BASIS no later than 31 July if we want to get our base funds allocation in 2006. We regard the 21.1 pay periods as a place holder until we see how well we do with salary recovery through reimbursable and cyclical funding in 2006. The purpose of the reduced requested pay periods on base is to underscore the need for PIs to request salary in their proposals.

I will focus on getting the Gainesville office's funding sources entered; Pat and Jean are handling the St. Pete and Ft. Lauderdale Biology requests.

The proposed strategy for evaluation of proposals and study plans will undoubtedly go through more review and revision. Your comments are welcomed. I hope we will have a meeting soon to discuss the implications of the new strategy, answer questions and address concerns.

Lynn

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