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Government-University Relationships

The National Science Foundation released a report last month on *Government-University Relationships in Federally Sponsored Scientific Research and Development* that urges increased Federal support of basic research at colleges and universities and emphasizes the need for continuity of support in the interests of effective conduct of basic research. The report noted that Federal contracting and grant procedures could be simplified with reference to research and development contracting with institutions of higher learning and other organizations of a nonprofit character. It emphasized the need for Federal grant and contracting officers to be continually alert for ways and means to avoid needless procedural steps or other delays in negotiation, review, and payment of research contracts and grants.

Among the recommendations in the report are the following:

1) Problems of Government-university relationships in the Federal support of research at colleges and universities should be explicitly and completely dissociated from the budgetary needs and crises of the institutions and from the general issue of Federal aid to higher education.

2) Continuity of support is unanimously agreed to be essential for the effective conduct of basic research. To this end, it should be the general practice for Federal agencies to make grants and contracts for more than 1 year, where the research warrants. When necessary, legislative authority should be provided for this purpose. Agencies should also be encouraged to establish reserves or otherwise to plan renewal of contracts or grants in advance, so that renewals of longer term undertakings can be announced to institutions at least 1 year before expiration.

3) Federal agencies should consider other alternatives before establishing within universities large-scale applied and development projects (particularly those concerned with development and testing), except in such specialized fields as engineering, agriculture, and medicine, where applied research is frequently related to educational objectives. Alternatives include Federal laboratories, industrial or other private laboratories, and research centers organizationally separated from the institution proper.

Funds to cover almost two-thirds of all expenditures for research and devel-

opment activities at colleges and universities come at present from the Federal Government. These Federal funds approximate a half-billion dollars, most of which sum supports research in applied fields, and come largely from defense and defense-oriented agencies.

4) No Federal agency should agree to reimburse institutions for salaries of faculty members engaged in Government-sponsored research at a rate in excess of the university rate; provided, however, that this should not apply to those faculty members granted leaves of absence to serve at research centers.

5) Government-sponsored classified research on college campuses should be reduced to a minimum consistent with national security.

6) Federal agencies should have legal authority to give the institutions title to research equipment procured by them through grant or contract funds unless a clear and definite need exists for Government control or use of the equipment. The time and expense involved in keeping records of research equipment may sometimes exceed the original value of the equipment. Much time and labor are frequently spent at the termination of research contracts in the formal and often fruitless circulation throughout the Government of long lists of highly specialized equipment which, in many cases, it would be unduly costly to relocate.

Copies of *Government-University Relationships in Federally Sponsored Scientific Research and Development* may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., for 40 cents.

Sarton Memorial Foundation

Henry Guerlac of Cornell University, president of the History of Science Society, has announced the organization of the George Sarton Memorial Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to promote the efforts of the late Dr. Sarton in the history and philosophy of science. The initial object of the foundation is to aid in maintaining the publication of *Isis*, the international journal for the history of science founded by Sarton in 1913, and to provide lectureships and fellowships to advance the study of the history of science.

The president of the Sarton Foundation is AAAS board member Chauncey D. Leake of Ohio State University; May Sarton, authoress and daughter of Dr. Sarton, is vice president. Morton Pepper of New York is secretary and William D. Stahlman of Massachusetts Institute of Technology is treasurer. The incorporators were C. Doris Hellman, Carl B. Boyer, William H. Stahl, Brooke Hindle, and I. E. Drabkin.

Members of the board of directors of the foundation include Elmer Belt, Marshall Clagett, Bernard Cohen, Bern Dibner, Stillman Drake, Louis Dublin, Frederick Kilgour, Giorgio de Santillana, Dorothy Stimson, Lynn White, Jr., and L. Pearce Williams.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Scientific Reporting. The 1958 Waverly Gold Medal essay competition has been announced by *Research*, a monthly publication of Butterworth Scientific Publications, London. The Waverly Medal and £100 will be awarded for the best essay of about 3000 words based on some recent scientific research or new development (whether the author's work or not), giving some indication of the scientific background, the experimental results, and potential application in industry. The essay should be written in such a form that it is clearly intelligible to a scientist engaged in another field or a director of an industrial firm. The essays will be judged for technical content by specialists in the field, and for clarity of presentation and style.

A second prize of £50 will be awarded, and an additional prize, also of £50, will be given for the best entry from a competitor under 30 years of age. The competition is only open to persons at present engaged in scientific work. Entries should be posted to reach The Editor, *Research*, 4/5 Bell Yard, London W.C.2, on or before 31 July 1958.

SEATO research fellowships. Ten to 15 fellowships will be awarded for 1958-59 to nationals of SEATO member states under the program initiated last year by the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. The program's objective is to sponsor research into the area's social, economic, political, cultural, scientific, and educational problems. Grants provide a \$400 monthly allowance and air transportation. Candidates must have high academic and professional qualifications. United States citizens should apply no later than 1 Aug. 1958 to the Committee on International Exchange of Persons, Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

Tropical Medicine. Louisiana State University has received a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to continue the program of fellowships in parasitology and tropical medicine that has been conducted for the past 3 years under a grant from the China Medical Board of New York. The new program will begin 1 Sept. 1958 and will be extended to include teachers and graduate students from nonmedical as well as medical institutions.

The fellowships will be of two types.