Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB)-NIH

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Outline

- Historical Facts about Howard
- Howard’s Research Priorities
- New HuIRB
- Comments of the NIH Review Process

Facts about Research at Howard

- University Charter: March 2, 1867
- 10,500 Students, 13 Schools & Colleges
- Graduate School: 31 programs, 17 STEM area
- 20 Ph.D areas, largest Undergraduate Program in Biology
- NSF Report: largest producer of AA Ph.D.s is STEM
- 32 Million in R&D, 70 million Sponsored Programs

Howard Research Priorities

- Health Disparities
- Nanotechnology/High Performance Materials
- Computational Science/ Cyber Security
- Atmospheres Sciences
- HIV/AIDs
- Stem Cell/Human Genome
- New Media, Electronic/Digital Arts and Gaming
- Educational Disparities
- Green Technologies/Initiatives & Environmental Sustainability

Howard Interdisciplinary Research Building

- $300 million investment in infrastructure
- 80 million facility
- 43,400 sq./ft assignable
- Hearth of DC high Tech Corridor
  - Nanotechnology/Cleanroom
  - Natural Products Research
  - Developmental Biology/Stem Cell
  - Atmospheric Sciences
  - Core Labs

Comments on Review Process

- Turnaround time for review is quite lengthy
- Reviewers seem to be unfamiliar with the details of the RFA
- Bias against minority institutions; assumption that capacity for performing research in inadequate
- News trolling about an institution; using this information in the review
- Study section reviewers are funded; bias towards keeping funding among small set colleagues

Comments on Review Process

- Need for NIH to pay more attention to “collaborations” with minority serving institutions – ensuring that the MSI is not included as only a means to “boost” minority numbers
- Select reviewers based on keywords/concepts to ensure that content matter experts are reviewing
- Less of a focus on individual grants, but rather more collaborations/small partnerships

Comments from recently unfunded proposals

- The leadership for training URM students at Howard has traditionally been a strength, but recent changes at the University appear to have weakened this capability
- …all three faculty are male. Given that many of the students will be female, it would be important to have female faculty be part of the programmatic team.

Recent NSF Science &Technology Center

- Center for Integrated Quantum Materials (NSF-STC) with Harvard/MIT

- Vision- The discovery of extraordinary new quantum materials with striking 'non-conventional' properties has caused great excitement, and it promises to transform signal processing and computation

- CIQM $ 4.5 M per year (Howard 1M)