

9 August 2011  
Research Activities, College of Engineering, SDSU

**Proposal Activity**

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the faculty and staff in the College of Engineering submitted a total of 97 proposals, requesting \$8.02 million in funding. During this same time, there were 36 awards. This gives a 37% success rate, not too different from the College historical ratio of about 1 in 3 proposals funded. The average award was \$68,000, largest award was \$450,000, and smallest award was \$6,000. The median award was \$75,000. A comparative tally of proposals and awards over recent years is at the bottom of this page. This past year we slipped back to more typical levels after a burst of stimulus awards last year.

**Account Activity**

We have 247 accounts at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, but only 180 were active –research funds, PI overhead funds, college funds, scholarships, gift funds, professor awards, student association accounts, and activities such as MESA. During the year we spent \$4.75 million from these accounts while adding \$2.45 million in new funding. The average spent per account was \$26,194, but the median was \$4,890. The largest was Project Lead the Way with an expenditure of \$286,476 last year. Of the \$4.75 total expenditure, \$0.76 million was F&A (overhead), giving an effective average overhead rate of 19%. Of the F&A paid, only about half qualifies for overhead return to the College (less space cost) and the PI. The anticipated overhead funds returned to the College in September will probably be in the range of \$30,000.

**Research Funds**

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the College of Engineering spent

academic year	proposal activity		award activity	
	number	million dollars	number	million dollars
05-06	74	\$7.523	37	\$3.313
06-07	70	\$7.712	35	\$2.542
07-08	72	\$6.688	36	\$2.847
08-09	82	\$7.664	39	\$3.031
09-10	131	\$15.404	45	\$4.292
10-11	97	\$8.020	37	\$2.451

This plot shows the expenditure distribution over the 180 accounts for the 2010-2011 academic year, with four accounts spending more than they took in, costing the College nearly \$6,000 (left portion of the plot) and the largest spending of \$286,476 is on the right. The distribution in expenditures is lopsided – 5% of the accounts resulted in more than 40% of the expenditures.

