Research Affairs

The Division of Research Affairs is responsible for the institutional approval of all grant proposals and contracts relating to sponsored research, instruction, and service agreements; administration of research regulatory and intellectual property services; administration of intramural faculty grants, fellowships and other institutional research support programming; and coordination of SDSU Research Foundation/University liaison.

The Division of Research Affairs is supervised by the director, who with the vice president for research, is responsible for the development, improvement, and administration of research activities at the university.

The importance of research in graduate instruction is recognized by the faculty, and all graduate programs provide for research on the part of the graduate student. Graduate students involved in thesis or other research at the university must comply with all applicable university research policies, including, but not limited to, those related to the use of human and animal subjects in research.

University Research Facilities and Organizations

Among the facilities for research that students may utilize are those provided in organized bureaus, centers and institutes located on the campus; specialized off-campus research facilities and field stations; inter-institutional, consortia and other cooperative research facilities.

Regulatory Compliance

Conflict of Interest Committee

SDSU investigators submitting, renewing, or participating in a proposal requiring funds from any designated external sponsor or receiving a gift or monetary pledge must file the appropriate financial disclosure statement at the time of the submission of the federal proposal, or within 30 days or prior to receipt of a privately sponsored grant or contract or receipt of a gift or monetary pledge. Disclosures must be updated on an annual basis during the period of the award and as new reportable significant financial interests are obtained. Disclosure statements are reviewed and evaluated by the Conflict of Interest Committee. The committee reviews the information provided by the investigator to determine whether the financial interest could affect the conduct or reporting of the project, and determine if any conditions or restrictions should be imposed on the investigator or research protocol in order to manage, reduce, or eliminate conflicts that are identified. The committee may also evaluate whether the financial interest has the potential to influence financial expenditures, personnel decisions, or facilities usages, limit or influence the teaching and research environment of the university. For more information contact the Division of Research Affairs, 619-594-5938. The Web site is http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/coi.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at SDSU functions in accordance with Federal and State regulations and institutional policy. The Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to this committee for implementing university policy for research, testing, or education involving the use of animals. Call 619-594-0905 for more information. The Web site is http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/iacuc.

Institutional Biosafety Committee

SDSU is responsible for ensuring that recombinant DNA research or experiments involving biological or potentially hazardous materials are conducted in compliance with the National Institute of Health Guidelines to promote safe and responsible practices. The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) reviews research for this purpose. The IBC is a committee of the University Research Council appointed by the associate vice president for research. Graduate and Research Affairs, Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to the IBC. The IBC membership is determined based on federal guidance and includes a biosafety officer, a veterinarian, scientists, and community members.

For information regarding SDSU’s Biosafety Program, visit the Environmental Health and Safety Web site at http://bla.sdsu.edu/ehs/ or contact the Institutional Biosafety officer at 619-594-2865. For information specific to the Institutional Biosafety Committee, contact the Division of Research Affairs, 619-594-0905 or e-mail ibc@mail.sdsu.edu. The Web site is http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/ibc.

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews research when procedures are proposed to obtain information about a living individual through the use of a survey, interview, observation, experimentation, or the analysis of human tissues, records, samples, or other data previously collected from human subjects. All research involving human subjects, conducted within the jurisdiction of SDSU’s Federalwide Assurance, must be reviewed and approved by the IRB in advance of study initiation. The IRB reviews research involving human subjects to determine and certify that all projects comply with the federal and institutional regulations and policies, and ethical standards.

The Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to the IRB. For general information, application procedures, guidance on ethical practices, and submission deadlines visit the Web site at http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/irb, e-mail irb@mail.sdsu.edu, or call 619-594-6622.

Research Promotion

Albert W. Johnson University Research Lecture

Sponsored by the University Research Council and Graduate and Research Affairs, the Albert W. Johnson University Research Lecture is awarded annually to an SDSU faculty member for outstanding achievement in research and scholarship. The purpose of the University Research Lectureship is to recognize such achievement, to foster its continuation, and to enable a distinguished resident faculty scholar to share knowledge more broadly with the academic community and the community-at-large.

Lecturers have included Dr. Joseph W. Ball, Professor of Anthropology; Dr. Alvin Coox, Professor of History; Drs. James Flood and Diane K. Lapp, Professors of Education; Dr. Maurice S. Friedman, Professor of Religious Studies; Dr. Arthur Getlis, The Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation Chair in Geographical Study; Dr. Dipak K. Gupta, Professor of Political Science; Dr. Robert Kaplan, Professor of Psychology; Dr. E. Percil Stanford, Professor of Social Work; Dr. Donna J. Thal, Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; Dr. Helen Wallace, Professor of Public Health; Dr. David Ward-Steinman, Professor of Music; Dr. Catherine Yi-yu Cho Woo, Professor of Chinese; Dr. Edward P. Riley, Professor of Psychology; Dr. Melbourne F. Hovell, Professor of Public Health; Dr. William G. Tong, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Dr. Eugene A. Olevsky, Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Walter C. Dechel, Professor of Biology; Dr. Mark A. Sussman, Professor of Biology; Dr. John P. Elder, Professor of Public Health; Dr. James F. Salis, Professor of Psychology; Dr. John R. Weeks, Professor of Geography; Dr. Sanford I. Bernstein, Professor of Biology; and Dr. Karen D. Emmorey, Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. For more information visit the Web site at http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/lectures.html.

University Grants Program

The University Grants Program (UGP) was created to integrate independent funding mechanisms through which faculty derive internal support for creative and scholarly research. These internal funding sources now include: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) awards, the Faculty Development Program (FDP), Faculty Grant-in-Aid for Research (GIA), the Adams Humanities Endowment and the Office of the Provost. The Division of Research Affairs administers the UGP. For more information, contact the Division of Research Affairs at 619-594-6938 or visit the Web site at http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/ugp.
University Copyrights and Patents Committee
The University Copyrights and Patents Committee (UCPC), a standing committee of the University Research Council, is charged with implementing the provisions of the copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets policy, reviewing disclosures and declarations to ascertain the extent of institutional support involved in the completion of intellectual properties and make recommendations to the vice president for research of assignment of ownership rights and division of royalties. For more information about the UCPC and the SDSU policy, see the intellectual properties section of the Web site at http://gra.sdsu.edu/grad/research/intproptechdev.html.

Student Research Committee
The Student Research Committee (SRC) is responsible for planning the annual Student Research Symposium (SRS) to showcase student research, scholarship, and creative activities. In addition, members of this committee assist in the review of Graduate Student Travel Fund applications and make recommendations for the Inamori Fellowship program. For more information, visit the Web site at http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/srs.

Faculty Recognition Committee
The Faculty Recognition Committee monitors criteria for significant national awards, and matches those criteria with the accomplishments of SDSU’s most productive faculty, to promote them for such awards. This committee is primarily composed of associate deans because of their strong service commitment and overview of faculty from throughout their respective colleges.

Technology Transfer Office
The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) provides a central location for companies and obtaining venture capital for future development. This office also reports to the SDSU Research Foundation. For more information, call 619-594-0516 or visit the TTO Web site at http://tto.sdsu.edu.

Graduate Research Centers and Institutes
California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB)
Susan Baxter, Executive Director
Created in 1987 as a systemwide program, the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) develops a professional biotechnology workforce by mobilizing and supporting collaborative CSU student and faculty research, innovating educational practices, and responding to and anticipating the needs of the life science industry. The CSUPERB program office is hosted at San Diego State University. CSUPERB promotes biotechnology workforce development by supporting innovative coursework and programs, real-world research experiences, and core resources for faculty and students at all 23 CSU campuses. The program involves students and faculty from life sciences, physical sciences, clinical sciences, engineering, agriculture, mathematics, business and computer science departments. CSUPERB organizes the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium and serves as the official biotechnology liaison for the CSU with government, educational, philanthropic, and industry partners.

CSUPERB recognizes that modern biotechnology preparation requires the integration of coursework, hands-on practice and participation in multi-disciplinary, team-based research projects. CSUPERB’s competitive grants and awards programs support these activities systemwide. Programs include: the CSUPERB-I2P® Early-Stage Biotechnology Commercialization Challenge, the Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholars Awards, the Presidents’ Commission Scholar Awards, the Crellin Pauling Student Teaching Award, the Glenn Nagel Undergraduate Research Award, the Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award, Travel Grant programs for students and faculty, New Investigator Grants, Research Development Grants, Entrepreneurial Joint Venture Grants, and Biotechnology Programmatic Development Grants. These programs award more than $650,000 to CSU faculty and students annually.

CSUPERB programs are administered by an Executive Director, a strategic planning council and a faculty consensus group, involving faculty representatives from each CSU campus. The Presidents’ Commission includes presidents from CSU Channel Islands, CSU Los Angeles, CSU San Marcos, Humboldt State University, San Diego State University, San Jose State University, and a CSU Executive Vice Chancellor. Visit the program Web sites at http://www.calstate.edu/csuperb and http://www.csubiocompass.org for more information.

Mount Laguna Observatory
Paul B. Etzel, Director, Professor Emeritus
San Diego State University operates Mount Laguna Observatory under special permit from the US Forest Service some 45 road miles east of the campus at an elevation of 6100 feet in the Cleveland National Forest. The current research telescopes include two reflectors with apertures of 24- and 40-inches; a new 48-inch reflector is being built jointy with the University of Kansas. Each has a modern telescope control system that allows for remote and robotic observing over the Internet via high-speed (45 Mbps) wireless connectivity through the University of California, San Diego. Auxiliary equipment includes multiple CCD cameras, Near-IR camera, CCD spectograph, and photoelectric photometers. Support facilities include a shop building, dormitory and apartments for observers. Associated with the observatory is the Avona Harrington Visitor Center, which supports educational programs and visiting astronomers. The 21-inch Buller telescope serves General Education classes on the main campus, and limited public outreach programs in the summer months with the US Forest Service. The Web site is http://mintaka.sdsu.edu.