
Division of Research Affairs

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 programs; administration of university cost-sharing; 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 (COI)

SDSU investigators submitting, renewing, or participating in a proposal requesting 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 website is <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/coi>.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) 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 website is <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/iacuc>.

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

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. The Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to the IBC.

For information regarding SDSU's Biosafety Program, visit the Environmental Health and Safety website at <http://bfa.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 website 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 website 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 Lectureship 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 continuance, 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. Diane K. Lapp, Professor of Teacher Education; Dr. Arthur Getis, The Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation Chair in Geographical Studies and Professor of Geography; Dr. Dipak K. Gupta, Professor of Political Science; Dr. E. Percil Stanford, Professor of Social Work; Dr. Donna J. Thal, Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; Dr. Catherine Yi-yu Cho Woo, Professor of Chinese [Senate Distinguished Professor]; 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. Oechel, Professor of Biology; Dr. Mark A. Sussman, Professor of Biology; Dr. John P. Elder, Professor of Public Health [Senate Distinguished Professor]; Dr. James F. Sallis, Professor of Psychology; Dr. John R. Weeks, Professor of Geography; Dr. Sanford I. Bernstein, Professor of Biology; Dr. Karen D. Emmorey, Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; Dr. Samuel S.P. Shen, Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Joanne M. Ferraro, Professor of History; Dr. Douglas A. Stow, Professor of Geography; and Dr. Fridolin Weber, Professor of Physics. The website is <http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/researchaffairs/researchlectures.aspx>.

Student Research Committee (SRC)

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 website at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/srs>.

Technology Transfer Office (TTO)

The Division of Research Affairs (DRA) and the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) serve SDSU in the management of new intellectual property developed by SDSU faculty and staff. Both play an active role with responsibilities to ensure compliance with all relevant laws as well as to open doors for impacting the communities where our researchers work. The TTO provides a central location where faculty, students, and staff may receive advice and assistance in the commercialization of their inventions, copyrights, and other scholarly work. In addition, the TTO assists in setting up new spin-off companies and obtaining venture capital for future development. The TTO is an SDSU Foundation office, functioning on behalf of the university community. For more information, call 619-594-0516 or visit the TTO website at <http://tto.sdsu.edu>.

University Copyrights and Patents Committee (UCPC)

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 website at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/grad/research/intproptechdev.html>.

University Grants Program (UGP)

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 619-594-5938 or visit the website at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/ugp>.

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) funds innovative curriculum development, partners with the life science industry, and supports collaborative CSU student and faculty research. The CSUPERB program office is hosted at San Diego State University. CSUPERB promotes biotechnology workforce development by supporting evidence-based instructional practices, experimental learning, and programs for faculty and students at all 23 CSU campuses. The program involves students and faculty from agriculture, business and computer science departments, clinical sciences, engineering, life sciences, mathematics, and physical sciences.

CSUPERB organizes the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium and serves as the official biotechnology liaison for the CSU with educational, government, industry, and philanthropic partners. CSUPERB also hosts the NSF-funded CSU I-Corps entrepreneurship education program.

CSUPERB recognizes that modern biotechnology preparation requires the integration of coursework, hands-on practice and participation in multi-disciplinary, entrepreneurship projects or team-based research. CSUPERB's competitive award, scholarship, and seed grant programs include Curriculum Development Grants, Crellin Pauling Student Teaching Awards, CSU I-Corps program, Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award, Entrepreneurial Joint Venture Grants, Glenn Nagel Undergraduate Research Award, Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholars Awards, New Investigator Grants, Presidents Commission Scholar Awards, Research Development Grants, and student and faculty travel grant programs. In total, these programs award over \$800,000 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 San Diego State University, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU East Bay, CSU San Marcos, CSU Northridge, and San Francisco State University. Visit the program websites 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 jointly 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 spectrograph, and photoelectric photometers. Support facilities include a shop building, dormitory and apartments for observers. Associated with the observatory is the Awona 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 website is <http://mintaka.sdsu.edu>.

Watershed Science Institute (WSI)

Trent W. Biggs, Director

The Watershed Science Institute (WSI) promotes collaboration among SDSU researchers and communities involved in the management and regulation of land and water resources. The objective of WSI is to improve the integration of science, policy, and management of watersheds by aligning research questions with critical management needs. The regional focus is on Southern California, including San Diego County, Imperial Valley, and the US-Mexico Border region, all of which face critical challenges related to water resources and water quality, drinking water supply shortages, climate change, water quality deterioration, impaired surface water bodies, soil erosion, and coastal contamination. WSI has collaborators across the university, including faculty in biology, civil and environmental engineering, geography, mathematics and statistics, and public health, and is therefore a university-wide institute housed in the Division of Research Affairs. Community collaborators include the City of San Diego Water Department, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and others. For more information, visit <http://watershed.sdsu.edu>.