

PSU Faculty Senate Research Update: Where are we, and where are we going?

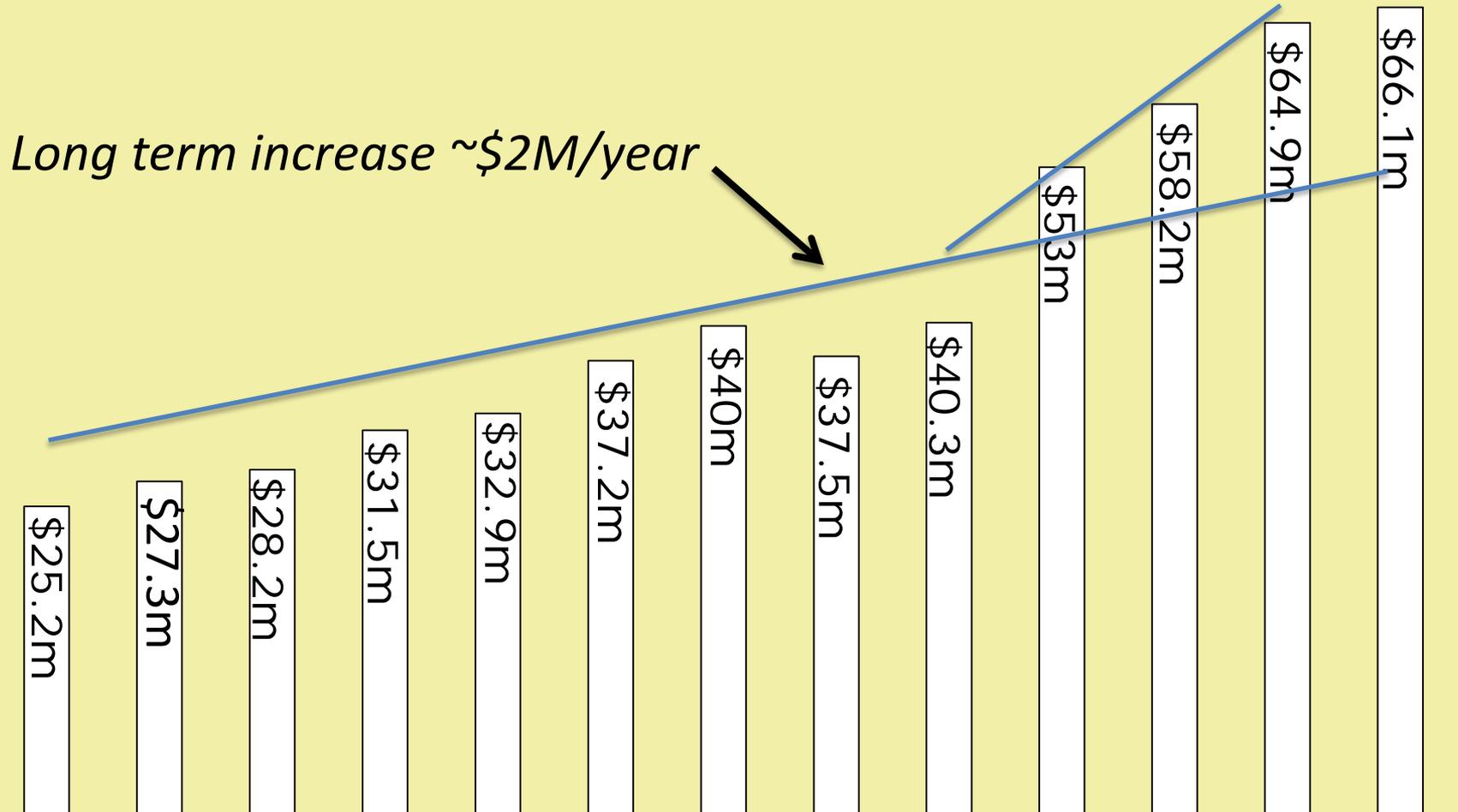
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November 5, 2012

A Look at PSU Research Expenditures

- There are three indicators of research activity:
 - Research expenditures (reflect past funding)
 - Research awards (reflect present funding)
 - Research proposals (reflect future funding)
- Expenditures are easiest to track
- PSU expenditures rose rapidly from 2008 to 2011
- They have since leveled off
- What's going on?

PSU Research Expenditures



Why did PSU expenditures go up?

- Federal stimulus funds from 2008-2011
 - Award rates went up dramatically at all federal agencies
 - Special programs were created
- PSU got “earmarks” for nanotech, transportation
- Large CLAS investments in Biology and Chemistry
 - New research-active faculty recruited in 2005-2008
 - Got grants in 2007-2010
- \$25M Miller matching grant for sustainability

Why did growth slow down?

- Federal stimulus funds ended in 2011
 - Agency budgets are flat; Competition is more intense
- Federal earmarks ended in 2011 due to budget crisis
- PSU hired fewer new research-active faculty
 - Earlier hires saturated with grant funds
- Administrative hassles discouraged faculty proposals
- ISS leadership confusion diluted sustainability impact
- Importance of research at PSU has been unclear
- RSP investment funds used to fill CLAS budget gap

What about the future?

- Administrative support expanding (e.g., ERA; reorg.)
- New Deans, VPs, and Provost actively support research
- Miller funds are being better leveraged
- Strategic partnerships getting better organized
- Stronger OHSU partnership should bring more funding
- Agreements with Intel expanding
- Multnomah County partnership; Urban Renewal Area
- PSU pushing for more support from foundations
- PSU Comprehensive Campaign will benefit research

Deans' leadership advancing research

- CLAS: Extensive research planning efforts underway
- MCECS: Committee analyzing future funding models
- SSW: Offering researchers competitive buyouts
- CUPA, OAA, RSP: Reviewing Centers' research activity
- SBA, MCECS, RSP: Ctr for Innovation, Entrepreneurship
- FPA: Accreditation of research-active Architecture
- GSE, CLAS, OAA, RSP: Coordinating STEM activities
- FPA, GSE, SBA: Replicating CLAS research admin model

RSP Reorganization

- 3+ years' review of PSU's research goals and processes
- Administrative processes convoluted; systems too old
- Staffing and training levels too low
- Pre-, post-award offices merged, but only in name
- Many position descriptions more than a decade old
- Faculty surveys confirmed that reorganization needed

RSP Reorganization

- Consultants, HR, RSP created new position descriptions
- 15 positions are being eliminated; 14 new ones created
- Current staff encouraged to apply for new positions
- Outplacement and career services provided to all
- Electronic research admin system being put in place