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March 24, 2010

The Honorable David Price  
United States House of Representatives  
2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear David:

As Congress continues its work towards crafting and approving a budget for Fiscal Year 2011, I write to highlight Duke University's federal funding priorities. The support provided through these programmatic requests has an immediate positive impact on students and researchers and will assist the region in moving through the recovery process and into a period of sustained growth and expansion.

The partnership between the federal government and Duke University continues to thrive and remain a strong economic driver. The university and health system are the second largest private employer in North Carolina, with over 35,000 faculty and staff and an overall budget of \$4 billion. In Fiscal Year 2009, Duke received over \$1.1 billion in federal funding through research awards, student financial aid and health reimbursements. In addition, Duke has received 298 awards through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) totaling over \$179 million. This funding has helped the institution carry out its research and education mission – a mission that produces path-breaking research discoveries that provide the foundation for next generation technologies, and trains the next generation labor pool.

However, to maintain our innovative edge, we must continue to reinvigorate the government-higher education partnership. U.S. competitiveness will rely in large part on capitalizing on a talented workforce, using its curiosity and innovative spirit to produce the next generation of technologies – technologies that will transform both our economy and our society. It will also rely on ensuring a smooth and efficient mechanism for moving technology from the laboratory to the marketplace. Universities, producers of the next technological advances and the new generation of workers, are uniquely positioned to play a critical role in this endeavor. It is a role Duke cherishes.

Overall, we are supportive of steps President Obama has taken and proposed towards making science and technology a national priority. The President's goal to devote more than three percent of the country's gross domestic product to research and development will revitalize the economic engine that helped the United States become a global powerhouse. The nearly \$15 billion provided for education and research programs under ARRA was a positive step in this

direction and a strong signal of the critical role these areas play in our economic solvency. This infusion of funding has helped invigorate labs strapped by the tenuous budget environment in recent years. At Duke, ARRA-funded grants have allowed researchers to hire technicians and purchase equipment to assist in their quest for novel breakthroughs. To find more details regarding the use of ARRA funds at Duke, I commend to you the following websites:  
<http://stimulus.ors.duke.edu/>  
and [http://www.duke.edu/federalrelations/policy\\_makers/stimulus\\_awards.html](http://www.duke.edu/federalrelations/policy_makers/stimulus_awards.html)

As we look forward to the Fiscal Year 2011 budget cycle and beyond, we must ensure steady, sustained and balanced growth in these areas in order to sustain innovation. Wild fluctuations in funding for the peer-reviewed, competitive grant programs at the federal science agencies creates great uncertainty and instability in university labs, stifling the output of new breakthroughs. Most affected by these fluctuations are the ambitious young researchers who struggle to obtain funding and turn to other career options. Although we recognize you are operating under an austere budget environment, the most effective way to sustain our capacity for innovation is to invest across all disciplines and across the research continuum. The complex societal issues facing our nation in the coming decade will require a multidisciplinary approach – from the social, physical and life sciences. It also requires adequate resources to fund foundational research through to applied and translational activities.

**To that end, I urge your support for the competitively awarded research grant programs at the federal agencies.** Specifically, funding the following research agencies at the following levels:

- National Institutes of Health: \$3.2 billion
- National Science Foundation: \$7.4 billion
- Department of Energy Office of Science: At least \$5.12 billion
- Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E): \$300 million
- Department of Defense 6.1 Basic Research Account: At least \$2.0 billion
- National Endowment for the Humanities: \$204 million

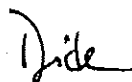
These peer-reviewed grant programs are the foundations of the nation's research enterprise, providing nearly 59 percent of funding for basic research across the country. Investments in human capital are also critical in ensuring our economic competitiveness. We must increase support for graduate students, who are at the core of university labs and the future scientific and engineering workforce. Additional details regarding these programs and the FY 11 budget requests can be found in the attached documents prepared by the Association of American Universities.

**I also urge support for programs aimed to make the current innovation enterprise more efficient.** One new exciting program to help with this endeavor that merits special mention is the National Science Foundation Innovation Ecosystem program. This program seeks to fill a

critical gap in the nation's innovation system by providing grants to universities in partnership with other institutions to help translate ideas into social and economic impact. It will capitalize on the wealth of creativity found on university campuses by increasing the engagement of faculty and students in the entrepreneurial process and creating an "innovation ecosystem" around the university. This, in turn, will help translate the most innovative ideas into products and services for societal and economic benefit. The FY 11 budget request for this program is \$12 million. It is a relatively small investment of funds for a potentially large impact and I urge your support for this request.

Again, I am aware of the budget constraints facing Congress and respectfully request you take these recommendations into consideration as the FY 11 budget process moves forward. My colleagues and I at Duke University stand ready to be a resource and hope you will not hesitate to contact us if there is any way in which we may be helpful.

With all best wishes,



Richard H. Brodhead

Enclosures

bc: Mike Schoenfeld