

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Jim Cooper
1536 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cooper,

Vanderbilt University is strongly committed to federal investments in science, research and federal student aid that provide access to higher education for millions of students each year. We respectfully request your support for these federal student aid programs and federally-funded, competitive, and peer-reviewed research programs in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations process.

We recognize that this is an unusual year with a confluence of budget and appropriations events that have combined to significantly alter the federal appropriations process. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made significant investments in programs about which we care deeply and for which we are most appreciative. Recovery Act funding to the NIH, NSF, DOE Office of Science, DOE ARPA-E, NIST, NASA, Pell Grants and Work-Study program are all critical to ensuring our country emerges from the current economic recession better educated and as leaders in the global innovation economy. These investments will spur economic recovery and sustain and create jobs in Tennessee.

However, we strongly urge the Congress to grow these investments with steady, sustained increases through the regular appropriations cycle. Investments such as those made in ARRA underscore our nation's recent underinvestment in basic research. Predictable growth in federal research budgets helps to ensure that basic research projects are pursued and long-term investments in human capital and scientific infrastructure are made. Stable funding growth also helps to attract bright students and retain talented scientists. We are grateful that this sort of steady growth was included in the FY09 omnibus appropriations bill.

We recognize that you have many competing interests and priorities within the federal budget as well as a desire to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent prudently and judiciously. Vanderbilt is committed to ensuring that the federal funding we receive is maximized and yields a tangible public good. We are dedicated to educating our students so that they become leaders in our communities, our country and the world. We are also devoted to conducting cutting-edge research that improves our lives and those of future generations. The investment made today by the federal government in terms of research funding yields the technology and solutions to tomorrow's problems. We firmly believe that such an investment is a prudent use of federal dollars and hope that we can count on your support to ensure that these commitments can be made.

Thank you for your support of Vanderbilt University and its programmatic priorities.

Sincerely,

Christina D. West
Director of Federal Relations

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION

National Institutes of Health

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final*	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$28.899 billion	\$29.362 billion	\$30.3 billion	TBA	\$32.421 billion

*Does not include FY08 supplemental.

Background:

To continue to create jobs, advance public health, pursue the President’s goal of doubling basic research over 10 years, and assure a smooth transition for scientists and research capacity brought online by the Recovery Act, Vanderbilt respectfully requests an NIH appropriation of \$32.421 billion in FY10, a \$2.121 billion, or seven percent, increase over FY09.

Biomedical research funded by NIH and performed at Vanderbilt assures U.S. leadership in the life sciences revolution of the 21st century and helps reduce health care costs by treating or curing disease. By also generating new jobs and companies, biomedical research will help lead the U.S. out of its current economic slump.

The NIH is the largest source of federal funding for Vanderbilt, providing 78 percent of our federal research funds. NIH provides 91 percent of the Medical Center's funding and 56 percent of the research funding for the College of Arts & Science. Our faculty compete extremely successfully against their peers across the country for this funding but sustained, steady funding increases must be available.

Department of Education - Student Aid Programs

Request:

	FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
Pell Grant max:	\$4,310	\$4,731	\$4,860	\$5,550	\$5,550
SEOG	\$770.9 million	\$757.5 million	\$757.5 million	TBA	\$1 billion
Work-study	\$980.4 million	\$980.4 million	\$980.4 million	TBA	TBA
Perkins Loan Capital Fund	\$66.3 million	\$64.3 million	\$67.2 million	TBA	TBA

Background:

Vanderbilt urges Congress to provide increased funding in FY10 for student aid programs including Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Perkins Loans, and Federal Work-Study. Sustaining the nation’s economic competitiveness requires that an increasing share of the workforce hold undergraduate or advanced college degrees. Moreover, in the current economic recession federal student aid is an important element of economic recovery, enabling low-income students to attend college and dislocated workers to retrain for new careers.

Vanderbilt University is fortunate to be able to offer prospective students both a need-blind admissions process and a commitment to meeting 100 percent of a student’s demonstrated need. We are also committed to our recently-announced debt-reduction initiative whereby all of a student’s demonstrated

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need will be covered by grants and scholarships. In 2007-08, more than 60% of undergraduates received some type of financial assistance; the average net tuition paid by students receiving financial assistance was \$6,195. We achieve this through a sizeable commitment of institutional funds dedicated to student aid, complemented by federal and state student aid programs. In 2008-09, we will spend approximately \$74 million in institutional funds, of which approximately 19% comes from the endowment, on undergraduate need-based aid.

Federal grant and loan programs are the foundation upon which a student’s aid package is built. Vanderbilt provided its undergraduates with the following federal aid this year:

- Over \$2.2 million in Pell Grants to 764 students;
- Over \$772,000 in Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants to 1,011 students;
- Over \$1.7 million in Federal Work-Study to 1,164 students; and
- \$4.5 million in Perkins Loans to 2,017 students.

Pell Grants: *Vanderbilt supports the administration’s proposal to make Pell Grants a mandatory program and tie annual increases to the CPI.* This would ensure a reliable source of grant aid for the neediest students, thereby increasing access to and affordability of higher education.

Campus-Based Programs: *We are strong supporters of the campus-based aid programs, including work-study and the Supplementary Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG).* SEOG allow us to plug the holes for financially needy students while the work-study program encourages financially disadvantaged students to develop strong work habits.

Perkins Loans: *Vanderbilt looks forward to learning more about the Administration’s proposed changes to the Perkins Loan program which provides much-needed low-interest loans to students. As it is currently structured, capital invested in Perkins loans is matched by schools and recycled again and again to help future generations; a substantial boost in funding would allow this important program to grow and expand to additional institutions. However, we would strongly oppose any changes that would negatively impact Vanderbilt’s current Perkins Loan portfolio.*

Federal Loans: *As a participant in the Federal Family Education Loan Program, Vanderbilt urges Congress to engage in a deliberate analysis before enacting substantive changes to the federal loan program.* We look forward to working with Congress to explore new models for student lending that best helps students and families to secure the funding they need to achieve their college goals.

Department of Education – International Education programs

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$109 million	\$109 million	\$119 million	TBA	\$177 million

Background:

Vanderbilt urges Congress to provide \$177 million for international education and foreign language programs in the Department of Education for FY10, a \$58 million increase over FY09. Vanderbilt is proud of its Title VI Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS). For sixty years CLAS has distinguished itself in teaching, research, and outreach in Latin American Studies, maintaining one of the strongest concentrations of Brazilianists of any university in the U.S. In 2006 CLAS was designated a National

Resource Center by the Department of Education and it is one of the select graduate programs approved by the Department of Defense for its Foreign Area Officer training. The Center also offers academic year and summer federally funded Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for the study of Portuguese and Mayan languages.

Department of Education - Institute of Education Sciences

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$517.5 million	\$546.1 million	\$617.2 million	TBA	\$1.234 billion

Background:

The Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is the primary federal agency supporting research that provides the evidence on which to ground education practice and policy. *In order to advance the science of teaching and learning to the point that education is truly evidence-based, Vanderbilt calls for a doubling of the federal investment in IES to \$1.234 billion, with a particular focus on the National Center for Education Research, which supports rigorous research that addresses the nation's most pressing education needs.*

Unfortunately, the Department of Education's current investment in education research is less than 1 percent of its overall budget. IES needs additional resources in order to support the kind of research that will enable the translation of theory into practice. By identifying what works, what doesn't, and why, IES seeks to improve education for all students.

With significant funding from the IES, a National Center on Performance Incentives (NCPI) was established at Vanderbilt in 2006. NCPI's work involves a series of rigorous research initiatives, including randomized field trials and evaluations of existing pay-for-performance programs. Vanderbilt is one of the major recipients of IES funding in the U.S., receiving over \$37 million from the Institute last year and \$8.5 million this year.

Department of Health & Human Services – University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD)

Request:

	FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
UCEDD	\$33.2 million	\$36.9 million	\$37.9 million	TBA	\$44 million

*UCEDD is located within the Administration for Children and Families/Developmental Disabilities Program.

Background:

Vanderbilt supports an increase of approximate \$6 million for a total of \$44 million in FY10 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

The network of 67 UCEDDs – including Vanderbilt's Kennedy Center which receives approximately \$500,000 annually – provide interdisciplinary training, community services, research, technical assistance and information dissemination on developmental disabilities. UCEDDs such as the Kennedy Center exist

to provide a unique and expert, state and community resource to facilitate independence and full participation in the community for people living with developmental and other disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, behavioral disorders, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, down syndrome and other genetic syndromes. Services provided by Vanderbilt’s UCEDD include state-of-the-art diagnosis; evaluation; support services for children and adults in health care; cognitive development; behavior disorders; education; daily living; and work skills. The additional funding is needed to address critical and emerging national needs, such the growing numbers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

DEFENSE

Department of Defense Basic Research (6.1)

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$1.525 billion	\$1.634 billion	\$1.842 billion	TBA	\$400 million increase

Background

Vanderbilt supports a \$400 million increase for Defense basic research. Within these new funds, \$50 million should be specifically designated to advance DOD energy research and security objectives.

Vanderbilt applauds the continuing efforts of the Secretary of Defense to emphasize peer-reviewed basic research and urges support for the Pentagon’s multi-year initiative which calls for a \$1 billion increase in Defense 6.1 basic research over five years, FY09-13. This request is consistent with recommendations made in a September 2007 memorandum sent to Secretary Gates by John Young, then-Director of Defense Research and Engineering. The request also is consistent with recommendations made by the National Academies’ 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. In addition, Vanderbilt supports added funding for Defense 6.2 applied research and other Defense science and technology (S&T) programs, as recommended in the John Young memorandum as well as the Minerva Initiative.

The University received over \$21 million from the Department of Defense last year. Our School of Engineering received over 30 percent – totaling nearly \$10.5 million – of its federal funding from DOD. Any changes in DOD funding would be acutely felt by our world-class engineering researchers as well as their colleagues in the College of Arts & Science (received \$4.6 million from DOD last year) and the Medical Center (\$5.4 million last year).

COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE

National Science Foundation

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final*	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$5.884 billion	\$6.065 billion	\$6.490 billion	\$7 billion	\$7 billion

*Does not include FY08 supplemental.

Background:

Vanderbilt strongly supports the Administration’s request of \$7 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY10. This increase of \$510 million, or 7.9 percent, over FY09 will help ensure a

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sustained, long-term investment in basic scientific research and STEM education and will realize the commitments made to NSF in the America COMPETES Act. This funding level will enable the NSF to continue to fund worthy science, mathematics, and engineering research and education projects that promote transformational and multidisciplinary research, provide needed scientific infrastructure, and contribute to preparing a globally engaged science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce.

NSF is an important funding source for Vanderbilt faculty, the third largest source of federal research funding at the university: in FY08 it provided 16 percent of the federal funds received by the School of Engineering; 14.5 percent of federal funding for the College of Arts & Science; and nearly 10 percent of the federal funds received by Peabody College of Education and Human Development.

NASA: Science

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final*	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$5.251 million	\$4.706 million	\$4.503 billion	TBA	\$200 million increase over FY08

*Does not include FY08 supplemental.

Background:

Vanderbilt urges Congress to increase NASA’s science account in FY10 by at least \$200 million over the FY08 level. Over the past decade, NASA has captivated the public with accomplishments that have revolutionized our knowledge and understanding of earth and space science, the life sciences, and aeronautics.

Last year, Vanderbilt received over \$3.7 million in research funding from NASA, the vast majority of it at the School of Engineering; NASA funding represents over 10 percent of their federal portfolio.

ENERGY-WATER

Department of Energy’s Office of Science

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final*	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$3.837 billion	\$4.018 billion	\$4.773 billion	TBA	\$5.2 billion

*Does not include FY08 supplemental.

Background:

Vanderbilt supports a minimum funding level of \$5.2 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science which represents an 8 percent increase above the FY09 funding level. The total is consistent with the America COMPETES Act and recommendations made by the National Academies’ 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*.

Both the Administration and Congress have assigned high priority to the development of new energy sources to reduce the impact of carbon fuel emissions on climate and ensure our nation’s future energy security. These research investments at DOE – as part of sustained, long-term support – are vital to meeting those national goals. A portion of the added funding should support new and existing university-

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based energy research and training initiatives aimed at producing critical scientific and technical talent in key energy-related disciplines. This includes support for the Department of Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC) program and funding for the new comprehensive DOE fellowship program authorized by the America COMPETES Act.

Funding for DOE’s Office of Science is a high priority for Vanderbilt. We have faculty in the College of Arts & Science and the School of Engineering who rely on these funds to support research in areas ranging from nanotechnology to high-energy physics. The School of Engineering receives over 25 percent of its federal funding from DOE – over \$8.5 million.

Department of Energy’s ARPA-E

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
0	0	\$15 million*	TBA	\$200 million

*\$400 million was included in the Recovery Act.

Background:

Vanderbilt supports providing \$200 million in FY 10 for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), a new agency with the specific mission of funding high risk, high reward energy research. We are eager to seize on the opportunities this new mechanism will offer university-based researchers and believe that discoveries that might stem from it could change our dependence on imported energy supplies. We encourage the Congress to fund ARPA-E in addition to the Office of Science and look forward to competing for research funding through this agency.

INTERIOR

National Endowment for the Humanities

Request:

FY 07 Final	FY 08 Final	FY 09 Final	FY 10 Admin Request	FY 10 Vanderbilt Request
\$141 million	\$145 million	\$155 million	TBA	\$230 million

Background:

Vanderbilt encourages Congress to provide the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) with \$230 million in FY10, an increase of \$75 million, above FY09 funding. This funding would help address significant unmet need throughout the Endowment’s core programs, including research and education, and would support a new competitively awarded graduate student-faculty program. NEH is the only federal agency supporting academic research and scholarship whose grants do not include support for graduate students. Vanderbilt supports a new competitive grant program at the NEH that would support faculty-graduate student collaborations similar to those found in the sciences.

NEH is a vital source of funds for humanities scholars and researchers at Vanderbilt who work to better understand and address the social, economic, and political challenges facing the world today. Our Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities began 20 years ago with a Challenge Grant from the NEH; a \$480,000 grant leveraged \$1.4 million which has enabled the Center to become a vital part of the university for the past two decades.