BASIC RESEARCH FUND (1985-1987), ADMINISTRATION OF THE
(Adopted by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Meeting #515, July 27, 1984, pp. 419-420.)

The Research Policy Act of 1983 established a Basic Research Fund in the State Treasury, to be administered by the Board of Higher Education. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Board appointed a Council for Research Policy Recommendations to advise the Board concerning policies and procedures for administration of the fund. The Council subsequently submitted a report containing recommendations of policies and procedures. The Board adopted the following recommended policies and procedures at its July 1984 meeting:

1. The Council for Research Policy Recommendations shall be maintained as a permanent council to advise the Board and oversee the implementation of Basic Research Funds. (Council Recommendation 8)

2. The Board shall set aside $55,000 for the biennium to allow the Council to fund extraordinary requests, on a timely basis, which shall include requests from members of the colleges of the System and Oregon Institute of Technology. (Council Recommendation 9)

3. Basic Research Funds shall be apportioned to each university in the System by the following formula: Each university shall be provided a base funding level of $125,000. Of the remaining funds, one-half shall be apportioned on the basis of each university's level of external research support. (Council Recommendation 4)

4. The scope of research funded by the Basic Research Fund shall include all areas of basic research in the university (e.g., sciences, humanities, arts, social sciences, and professional schools). Priority shall be given to proposals with potential for addressing economic development of Oregon. Priority shall be given also to "seed" grants that evidence the potential for obtaining further funding and/or "matching" grants that leverage state dollars against the possibility of obtaining like or greater amounts of matching support from external agencies. (Council Recommendation 2)

5. Each of the four universities shall utilize an internal faculty research review panel to judge the caliber of basic research proposals requesting funds from the Basic Research Fund. Criteria for judging the proposals shall be those used by national agency peer review panels (e.g., National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, National Endowment for the Humanities). (Council Recommendations 1 and 3)

6. Each university shall adhere to the nondiscriminatory guidelines presently required by all state and federal agencies. (Council Recommendation 7)

7. Each university shall provide the Board, biennially, an accounting of the use of the Basic Research Fund monies. Such a report should include the following: (a) areas of funding, (b) how funding decisions were made, (c) the criteria used in funding decisions, (d) summary of funding to include individual grants and number of proposals submitted versus number funded, (e) number of new external proposals applied for and received as a result of the Basic Research Funding process, (f) evidence of nondiscriminatory access to the fund, and (g) scholarly activity resulting from grants (e.g., publications, professional seminars, etc.). (Council Recommendation 5)

8. A "Blue Ribbon" Basic Research Fund Review Panel shall be established to review the entire Basic Research Fund process. The Panel should be comprised of five nationally recognized scholars, invited by the Board with the advice of the Council for Research Policy recommendations, to review the decision-making processes as well as the overall quality of the funded proposals. The Panel should be invited to spend three days in Oregon every two years to review appropriate documentation and to
interview personnel on each campus. The cost of the Panel should be borne by the Basic Research Fund. (Council Recommendation 6)