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FINAL REPORT

Submitted by
Willard F. Libby

Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics
University of California, Los Angeles

May 12, 1975
In 1961, the first proposal to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was submitted for support of the interdisciplinary program in education and research in the areas of Space Science, Space Biology and Space Engineering. In the fourteen years since that original proposal, some 178 grants have been given to members of the UCLA faculty to begin research programs. There is no question in our minds that the sustaining grant program provided a unique opportunity for the University of California at Los Angeles to begin research projects in a multitude of areas.

The philosophy as stated in our original proposal that, "the investigation of space is not neatly fenced into specific areas. Engineering must mix with science and the sciences must mix with each other. The space age presents an enormous responsibility for scientists to describe not only physical conditions in space but the influences which these conditions will have on life exiled from its natural realm. To do this job it will be necessary to train not only large numbers of students in Engineering and in the physical and Biological Sciences but also to equip them with broadly interdisciplinary knowledge, specifically designed to implement careers in this new field."

"The Space Center will integrate the various research activities on space, will stimulate new research in space oriented areas and will provide a framework in which students will undertake interdisciplinary work."
I think that this philosophy and the objectives set out originally have been met to the highest degree possible.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration provided three grants to UCLA; the General Sustaining Grant, the NASA Fellowship Grant, and the Space Science Building Grant. The Building Grant provided a 35,000 square foot building dedicated to space science research. Slichter Hall is an excellent research facility and UCLA is indebted to NASA. The NASA Fellowship Grant was also a great benefit to the University. It not only provided fellowships for a great number of graduate students, but also funds to bring outstanding scientists to the campus for brief visits.

The NASA General Grant has been administered since its inception by a committee of UCLA faculty appointed by the Chancellor. The members of this committee are as follows:

Dr. Willard F. Libby, Chairman  
Director of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics

Dr. William Ross Adey, M.D.  
Associate Director of the Brain Research Institute

Dr. Lawrence Aller, Professor and Chairman  
Department of Astronomy

Dr. John French, M.D., Director  
Brain Research Institute

Werner Hirsch, Professor of Economics and  
Director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs

Dean Chauncey Starr, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
This committee met on a regular basis during the lifetime of this grant for the purpose of evaluating proposals from the members of the UCLA faculty; for setting the goals and priorities for the sustaining grant; and for making awards to the faculty for research programs that would best utilize the funds they had at their disposal.

When the space program began in the early sixties it was clear that no university was capable of generating and sustaining the necessary programs in space education and research without the support of outside funding. Fortunately, NASA recognized this too and during the last fourteen years it has encouraged space related research and education in those universities whose activities contribute most to the NASA mission. The Sustaining Grant program as we have mentioned, was unique at least to the University, and in many ways, allowed the space science committee the flexibility of directing research programs which would otherwise not have been possible. The most important aspect of this grant is the support of lunar research which was also appropriate to graduate student training. As a result, the Department of Planetary and Space Science, devoted entirely to graduate instruction in these disciplines, came into existence largely through the help of the NASA Grant.

Semiannually, since this program began we have reported on the various subgrants which were given by the committee so there is no need to go into detail on these research programs. I think that it is important to note that many of
the projects which began with seed money from the sustaining grant program have matured and indeed, have received substantial support from not only NASA but from other governmental agencies to continue on these areas of research. Illustrative of this is the work originally begun under the sustaining grant program, by Dr. Lawrence Aller, from the Department of Astronomy. In 1964 a 24" telescope was installed near Ojai, California under the NASA program. Since that time it has been largely supported by the National Science Foundation. Professor Paul Coleman received funding in the early years for the development of magnetometer experiments as well as developing methods for the analysis of the data provided by various space flights. Since that time Dr. Coleman and his associates have been involved on many NASA funded programs and are responsible for the development of the subsatellite used on Apollo 15. This Space Physics group is still the largest NASA supported program at UCLA and are active in the Mother/Daughter program as well as many of the Mariner flights.

In 1968, Professor J. W. Schopf was given a sub-grant from the sustaining program to equip a new laboratory for organic geochemical and micropaleological investigations of Precambrian sediments. This new facility was of great importance to Dr. Schopf as he was a Principal Investigator on the first lunar contracts after the Apollo 11 mission. Dr. Schopf was a member of the original lunar scientific committee and his laboratory is certainly one of the finest of its kind.
Experimental plasma physics programs were begun in 1963, under the direction of Dr. Ken MacKenzie of the Physics Department. These programs have grown not only in their magnitude but in their importance in today's energy-starved society. The original programs funded from the sustaining grant program are now being carried on at a much higher level of support by the Atomic Energy Commission.

One of the subgrants in this program was for the Analysis of Carbon Compounds in Carbonaceous Chondrites. Over the years nearly 50 researchers have been supported throughout this country for the studies of Carbonaceous Chondrites. In 1967 NASA made a specific grant to continue on the work on Carbonaceous Chondrites and many people supported under this program were later to become Principal Investigators under the lunar science programs. Drs. Cyril Ponnumperuma, formerly of Ames Research Center and now the University of Maryland, deserves a great deal of credit for the coordination of the Carbonaceous Chondrite Program.

The Crystal Growing Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Hans Bommell has been supported almost since the inception by the sustaining grant program. At the present time, a group of faculty from the departments of Physics and Chemistry are making a proposal to the National Science Foundation for the establishment of a Materials Research Laboratory and early indications are that this program will be funded. This is an exciting outgrowth of the original Crystal Growing
Laboratory. In addition, the School of Engineering has a Department of Materials which has had a close association with the Crystal Growing Laboratory and receives a great deal of its funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Transportation.

In 1971, Dr. Libby and Dean Starr set out to develop an interdisciplinary program in Environmental Science and Engineering. At the present time, this doctoral program, now in its fifth year, has graduated 4 students and has an enrollment of nearly 50. A large part of the success of this new doctoral program can be attributed to the sustaining grant program which over the years, has facilitated the inner action of faculty from many disciplines and the beginning of joint research programs which have enabled us to look at several sides of a particular research program. Indeed, when we look at our Environment, we realize that no single discipline is represented and therefore, we must understand the inneractions of these disciplines upon each other if we are going to solve some of our environmental ills.

The NASA sustaining program has benefited many universities, not only in assisting the development of many new research programs, but also in the development of interaction between faculty and students.

There is no question in our minds that the sustaining grant program was of great assistance to the universities in
the development of research programs but also to NASA. It is important that the Congress understands that if we are to set goals, such as the space program, that this kind of support and this kind of program is essential to seeing that those goals are attained. Certainly, over the next several decades, energy and our environment are going to be two of our most pressing needs for research, and that, perhaps the solution to these programs we face might well be found if a similar program such as the NASA sustaining grant program were developed.
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Aller, L. and Whitford, A., State-Wide Committee on Telescope for the Southern Hemisphere
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Barry, J.D., Coleman, P.J., Libby, W.F. and Marshall, L., Reflection by Free Radicals in the Earth's Ionosphere
Barry, J.D., Coleman, P.J., Libby, W.F. and Libby, L.M., Radio Frequency Reflection by Free Radicals in the Earth's Ionosphere
Bennion, D.N., High Energy Electrodes in Non-Aqueous Electrolytic Solutions
Bernhardt, A.F., and Libby, W.F., Intense Short Wavelength Light Sources
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Berger, R., Isotopic Organic Chemistry
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