



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate

FROM: Robert L. McGrath,
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: March 5, 2007

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

RECENT FACULTY/STUDENT AWARDS AND HONORS

Professor IV Ramakrishnan in the Computer Science Department along with Dr. Subramanyam Swaminathan of Brookhaven National Lab have been awarded a grant of \$950,000 for their bioinformatics proposal from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Undergraduate Mitchell Fourman has been named to the third team of USA Today's College Academic All Stars. The newspaper sponsors this annual competition which identifies outstanding undergraduates who successfully combine academic excellence with substantial involvement and leadership outside the classroom. Mitchell majors in History and Chemical Engineering and is working on compounding nanocomposite materials with exposure to supercritical fluids.

In a survey conducted by the Association of University Technology Managers, Stony Brook University placed in the top 20 colleges and universities nationwide in generating royalties from inventions licensed to industry. Stony Brook received nearly \$13 million in such royalties, finishing ahead of other prestigious schools including Johns Hopkins and the University of Georgia.

CLUSTER HIRE SEARCH IN THE DIGITAL ARTS, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

A search for six new cross-disciplinary faculty appointments to launch a new Consortium for Digital Arts, Culture and Technology will begin next week. This search will target faculty in the digital artists and music, as well as cultural scholars and technology researchers. This initiative was motivated by the work of the Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (FAHSS) Steering Committee with the goal of encouraging collaboration across disciplines to

create new educational and professional opportunities for our students in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Specifically, faculty in these fields will establish a new undergraduate major and minor as well a graduate certificate in digital media. A CAS/CEAS search committee is now being formed with representation from Art, Music, Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, and Computer Science.

BOOKSTORE POLICY REMINDER

The deadline for faculty to order textbooks and course materials for the summer session and fall is April 15, 2007. I would like to remind all faculty of the Senate's *Textbook and Course Materials Ordering Policy*:

The Provost endorses the University Senate Policy of 1996, which requires that "the University Bookstore be informed of the textbooks and course materials required, or recommended for, courses offered in the following semester, even if orders are being placed at other bookstores"

Remark: This Policy does not prevent a faculty member from placing a book order at an off-campus retailer but it does require that the University Bookstore be notified of all textbooks and course materials.

Remark: The Policy covers all semesters: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

Rationale:

- i) Many students purchase books through a Bookstore Campus Account (BCA). A BCA allows students to defer immediate out-of-pocket expenses. For students receiving scholarships, the scholarship can be used for book purchases only through a BCA. BCAs cannot be used at off-campus retailers; scholarship students must purchase books at such sites with their own funds.
- ii) Having all textbooks available in the University Bookstore enables one-stop-shopping, which is particularly useful to disabled students.

REMINDER OF THE 2007 SBU/BNL SEED GRANT PROGRAM

On January 19th, I announced to all faculty a call for proposals for the ninth annual SBU/BNL Seed Grant Award Program. The seed grants of up to \$25,000 each are intended to strengthen the programmatic links between our university and Brookhaven National Lab.

RFP information and Formal Proposal Applications are available at <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/bnl/seed.html>, please note the deadline for submission is 5 PM EST, Friday, March 9, 2007.