



October 5, 2009

TO: Twin Cities Deans and Chancellors

FROM: E. Thomas Sullivan, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

RE: FY11 Earmarks in Washington

It is time to begin the process of considering requests for earmarks for federal fiscal year 2011. You will recall that over the past two years, we have worked to select a very limited number of projects that reflect our institutional priorities.

This year I ask you to be mindful of the billions of dollars being invested in research in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The University has received more than \$78 million this year in federal competitive ARRA grant funding and will receive nearly \$90 million under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

Earmarks remain controversial within and outside Congress and lawmakers have reacted with increased requirements for transparency. If an agreement struck between the House and Senate for FY 2010 holds, many for-profit companies who are awarded earmarks will be required to take part in a competitive bidding process for the funding. Interested faculty should also be aware that by one analysis, the average funding amount per congressional earmark has decreased by 75 percent from FY 1998 to FY 2009, and the University's experience in recent years has been that our non-defense earmarks rarely exceed the low six figures.

Available at [here](#) are the University earmark guidelines that clarify the types of projects that will be considered as well as the necessary [form](#) that must be completed. Each request must be approved by the college dean, or chancellor, and, if necessary, prioritized before being forwarded to Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy by November 16, 2009 for review and recommendations. I will make the final recommendations in consultation with University leadership.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in our effort to focus the University's requests. Please contact Channing Riggs (riggs035@umn.edu, 612-624-8520) director of federal relations, if you have any questions.