

A UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A large university proposes a "package" of activities to support a center to help the faculty find new and better ways to maintain high quality instruction. Center staff could consult with and conduct workshops for faculty members who need technical information and skills in such areas as programmed instruction, testing and grading, and computer assisted instruction in improving classroom instructional techniques. In cooperation with several university departments the Center could help prepare graduate students for positions as teaching fellows. In addition to serving the university, the services of the Center could be made available to a group of smaller and weaker colleges that, alone, cannot keep pace of fast moving developments in higher education and technology.

Building on a group currently receiving National Science Foundation support for the development of new college-level science curricula and an OE supported language laboratory, a university submits a package of proposals which would create a center to improve college-level instruction in science and non-science fields. The ingredients proposed and sources of funding are—

Research on the learning process—OE research funds (or NIH-NIMH);

Science curriculum development—continued support from NSF;

Non-science curriculum development—OE research program;

Language teaching—continued OE language and area study support;

Exploring the effective use of computers—NSF's program designed for this purpose;

Science teacher training—NSF's institutes;

A subsidiary program for upgrading of teachers from small, weak colleges at this center—OE developing colleges program;

Research participation support to enable teachers to work on outstanding research projects receiving funds from AEC, NASA, DOD, NIH, or NSF—NSF funds;

Library books—OE's college library grant program.

Some of the problems of packaging such a grant include—

The designation of a "lead" agency;

Allocation of costs to appropriations;

Arranging for joint agency review and monitoring;

Arranging for a single set of outside consultants in connection with the review;

Transfer of funds to contracting agency.