

Introduction to the Special Issue

A recent trend in the university-government partnership is actively threatening the productivity of university research. At the very time that our country most needs our universities to help solve our society's most crucial challenges, the federal government is imposing an ever-increasing burden of paperwork on faculty, in turn diverting their time and energies from the very research activities that can spawn vitally needed discoveries. Simultaneously, university financial resources in place to cope with these expanding administrative responsibilities are being burdened and even debilitated by the federal government's shift of research costs onto universities. Further, it appears that federal and state governments' desire to partner with universities in a massive enterprise to increase homeland security and economic development could actually threaten the academic freedom upon which our universities are built.

The National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) convened a Senior Research Leadership Summit in the fall of 2008 to foster a dialogue among university chief research officers and their senior research administrators. The dialogue focused on potential solutions to the very real threats these issues pose to America's research productivity and economic security. Topics included:

- Aligning compliance obligations, resources, missions, and services to get scientists and engineers back to the bench, performing research;
- Restoring full reimbursement of research costs by effectively communicating the value of facilities and administrative costs;
- Balancing the obligations of academic freedom with those of social responsibility; and
- Alerting university presidents and trustees to the risks of underinvestment in research infrastructure and staff support.

This special issue of the *Research Management Review* commemorates and memorializes those proceedings.
