

Federal Obligations to Universities and Colleges Reach Record Level

Total Federal obligations (exclusive of loans) to institutions of higher education increased \$253 million, or 8 percent, to a record level of \$3,480 million in fiscal year 1971. The 1971 upturn in Federal funding of universities and colleges contrasts sharply with the 7-percent decline in 1970 and the relatively stable funding levels throughout the 1967-69 period. During the 1967-71 period, the growth of Federal support to universities and colleges averaged an annual increase of just over 1 percent, compared with the 24-percent average reported during the 1963-67 period (within that time several new programs were established under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 and the Higher Education Act of 1965). Educational programs classified as "non-science" activities continued to lead the dollar growth among the major categories of activities with a \$105 million (10 percent) increase in 1971.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), which accounts for nearly two-thirds of total Federal funding to institutions of higher education, was responsible for \$212 million of the increase over 1970 funding. This 10-percent rise was attributable primarily to increases of \$125 million in funding by the National Institutes of Health and \$83 million in support by the Office of Education.

Academic science projects accounted for \$2,336 million in 1971, 7 percent more than in 1970, but less than in 1969 and 1968. Most of this increase resulted from a 7-percent rise in R&D obligations which, in 1971, comprised some 66 per-

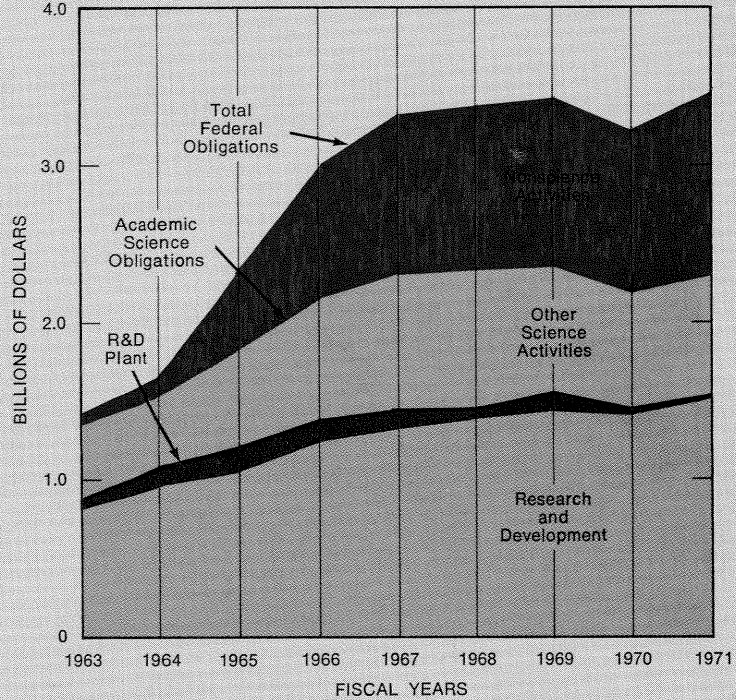
cent of total Federal academic science funds. HEW and the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported the largest increases in R&D support—\$81 million and \$16 million, respectively. The Department of Defense, the second largest Federal source of academic R&D support, reported a \$24 million decrease from its 1970 total.

Federal agencies sponsor academic R&D projects in virtually all of the science disciplines and engineering. Nearly one-half (48 percent) of the 1971 Federal

academic R&D total, however, supported work in the life sciences. The physical sciences and engineering were the only other fields to exceed 10 percent of the total.

Of the remaining academic science projects receiving Federal support, fellowship and training programs—principally sponsored by HEW and NSF—totalled \$421 million in 1971, 18 percent of total Federal academic science funding. This amount is 2 percent below the \$429 million reported for 1970.

Trends in Federal support of higher education, 1963-71



SOURCE: National Science Foundation (CASE).

Federal Obligations to Universities and Colleges, by Agency and Type of Activity, FY 1971

(Dollars in millions)

Agency	Total obligations	ACADEMIC SCIENCE							
		Total academic science	Research & development	R&D plant	Facilities & equipment for instruction in science and engineering	Fellowships, traineeships, and training grants	General Support for science	Other science	Other activities
Total, all agencies	3,480	2,336	1,544	30	29	421	100	212	1,144
Department of Agriculture	215	215	75	—	^b	—	—	139	—
Atomic Energy Commission	106	106	96	5	2	3	—	^b	—
Department of Commerce	10	8	7	—	—	^b	^b	1	2
Department of Defense	242	242	242	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of Economic Opportunity	38	16	16	—	—	—	—	—	21
Environmental Protection Agency	27	27	17	—	—	10	—	—	—
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	2,263	1,142	696	15	14	361	40	16	1,121
Department of the Interior	23	23	21	—	^b	^b	1	—	^b
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	134	134	129	^b	—	1	—	4	—
National Science Foundation	388	388	217	10	12	42	57	50	—
Department of Transportation	11	11	8	—	—	3	—	—	—
Other ^a	25	25	21	—	—	1	1	2	—

^a Includes AID, HUD, and Labor.
^b Less than \$500,000.
 Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.
 Source: National Science Foundation (Committee on Academic Science and Engineering).