

# ISBER

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH



## **ISBER 15 Year Review Self-Assessment and Proposal for Continued ORU Existence**

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## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

For a third of a century (since 1967), the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (ISBER), and its predecessor, the Community and Organization Research Institute (CORI), has served as the campus ORU for sponsored research in the social sciences and, to a lesser extent, the humanities and other disciplines, colleges, and research units of the university. While most other ORUs have a relatively well-defined identity forged around a common research specialization, ISBER, since its inception, has been intentionally organized to serve a broad range of interests, promoting interdisciplinary work that often spans the boundaries between the social sciences, the humanities, the behavioral sciences, and, in some cases, the physical and life sciences. ISBER's original charge was to "serve as a major resource for basic research in the social sciences," encouraging "faculty participation in interdisciplinary research." With ISBER's absorption of the Social Process Research Institute (SPRI) in 1990, ISBER grew rapidly and became even more diverse in terms of client base, a trajectory which has accelerated in recent years. ISBER thus provides a significant service to UCSB, providing efficient contracts and grants administration to an extremely wide range of clients.

In recent years, ISBER's mission has been expanded to include active grant development efforts as well. ISBER works directly with researchers to help them formulate projects, identify potential funding sources, and develop proposals. ISBER, in close collaboration with the Dean of the Social Science Division, is working actively and effectively to develop and support research at UCSB, particularly in the social sciences and humanities. This is accomplished, in part, through two intramural funding programs: the ISBER Social Science Research Grants Program (funded by the Social Science Dean and the Executive Vice Chancellor), and the Humanistic Social Science Research Program (funded by the Social Science Dean and the Vice Chancellor for Research).

During a time of generally lean funding in the social sciences, ISBER's success is indexed by an 8-year increase (1992-93 to 1999-00) in the number of awards administered from 68 to 123 (81%), and an increase in the multiyear value of awards administered from \$5.2 million to \$9.4 million (81%) (see Figure 1). The increase in annual income from awards (that is, the amount available to be spent in a given calendar year) has doubled in the past five years, from \$1,955,701 in 1995-96, to \$3,984,304 in 1999-2000 (see Figure 2). During the last academic year, ISBER's 125 PIs and co-PIs were involved in 123 projects. Although we are only little more than halfway through the current academic year (as of the end of February 2001), ISBER has thus far submitted \$13.7 million in proposals (the comparable figure for the entire 1999-2000 academic year was \$14.1 million). Annual income from awards is currently \$3.2 million, 81% of last year's total.

The number of ISBER Centers has grown as well – from ten to fourteen in the past year alone. ISBER Centers encompass a wide range of social science research concerns. They include Centers for the Advanced Study of Individual Differences, Communication and Social Policy, East Asia, Evolutionary Psychology, Global Studies, Health Data Research, Information Technology and Society, MesoAmerican Research, Middle East Studies, Sexual Minorities in the Military, Spatially Integrated Social Science, the Study of Discourse, the Study of Religion, and Survey Research.

Four of ISBER's Centers were approved and began operations during the past year – the [Center for Information Technology and Society \(CITS\)](#), a partnership between ISBER and the College of Engineering, which has thus far raised an endowment of approximately \$522,000; the Center for Middle East Studies (CMES), UCSB's first U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center, with \$662,600 in funding (including \$135,000 in matching funds); a National Science Foundation Center for [Spatially Integrated Social Science \(CSISS\)](#), funded by a five-year \$3.7 million infrastructure grant (including \$400,000 in matching funds); and the new [UCSB Survey Research Center](#), with an initial endowment of \$261,500 to equip its Benton Laboratory with a state-of-the-art CATI (computer assisted telephone interview) system.

## METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

In addition to drawing on ISBER's database, records, and annual reports (the latter are available on our website at [www.isber.ucsb.edu](http://www.isber.ucsb.edu)), in preparing this report, I conducted two brief surveys: one of ISBER clients, and one of award recipients of ISBER's two research grants programs (described above). Questionnaires are provided in Appendix 6. The former produced 20 responses representing 11 different departments (Anthropology, Economics, Sociology, Political Science, Linguistics, Religious Studies/Islamic Near Eastern Studies, History, Geography, Communications, and Women's Studies) and 4 ISBER Centers (the Health Data Research Facility, the center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, the Center for the Study of Discourse, and the Center for Middle East Studies). Respondents also included two ISBER professional researchers. In the discussion that follows, I select representative comments; the full responses to the client survey are provided in Appendix 7; to the survey of grant recipients, in Appendix 8. The comments were universally positive, although some useful suggestions were made for future directions.

## ASSESSMENT OF ISBER'S CURRENT SITUATION

### 1. Academics – Faculty Researchers and Researchers and Other Academic Research Participants

#### a. Comment on how the ORU benefits the campus in general and academic departments in particular.

Although ISBER is nominally the campus's social science ORU, in fact it serves the entire campus community. During the past several years, ISBER has worked with 158 investigators from 30 different departments or programs, who have sought funding from over 100 different agencies (see Appendices 1, 2a-c, ). An approximate breakdown of proposals submitted by ISBER during 1999-00, indicating the administrative location of the lead PI, is revealing:

L&S-Social Sciences	66.0%
L&S-Humanities and Fine Arts	10.5%
L&S-Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences	5.0%
ISBER Professional Researchers	10.5%
Bren School of Environmental Science and Management	4.0%
<u>Graduate School of Education</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
total	100.0%

Thus, fully a third of ISBER's PIs come from outside the Social Science Division, and even this is not an exact mirror of ISBER's scope, since numerous projects have co-Principal Investigators from different divisions. For instance this does not capture researchers from the College of Engineering.

Currently (winter quarter 2001), ISBER researchers come from 18 different departments in all three Divisions of the College of Letters and Science, including Anthropology, Communication, Computer Science, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History of Art and Architecture, Art Studio, French & Italian, History, Linguistics, Mathematics, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Speech and Hearing. They also come from the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, Graduate School of Education, the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, the College of Engineering's

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and such interdisciplinary programs and departments as Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Law and Society, Latin American and Iberian Studies, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies, Environmental Studies, Global & International Studies and Women's Studies.

ISBER benefits these units (and UCSB generally) by providing consolidated, cost-effective administration and oversight of research projects, as well as highly proactive research development support (see 1.b below). ISBER's success is indexed in part by the previously-mentioned growth in proposals, funding, and Centers. ISBER clients' comments identify several broad categories of benefits, including **providing administrative efficiency** ("The biggest benefit is the centralization of services," "Our own department [Linguistics] is so severely stretched in terms of space and administrative support that we could not carry out research projects of a certain magnitude without ISBER"), **supporting conferences and other programming for ISBER Centers and researchers** ("Well, I can only really comment in detail about the way ISBER has supported my Center's campus activities. These include numerous campus events including (by the end of this year) nine visiting speakers, a film, and a play that has received rave reviews in the New York Times and elsewhere"), and **contributing to the research culture of the university** ("ISBER brings accomplished, creative, professionally active scholars and practitioners to the UCSB campus community. ISBER researchers interact with students and faculty and are engaged in campus activities"). ISBER does not contribute directly to faculty recruitment for academic departments, although it does make indirect contributions. ISBER Director Appelbaum and Dr. Barbara Herr Harthorn, Director, Social Science Research Development, frequently meet with faculty who are being recruited, to discuss the research environment at UCSB. Faculty spouses sometimes are given research appointments, which may be instrumental in the decision to come to UCSB ("I am the spouse of [a recently recruited professor] and it has meant a lot to us that I have an academic home at ISBER [as a newly-appointed professional researcher]...It has helped tremendously in our entry into the university community"). Barbara Herr Harthorn's support for research development is also mentioned as important ("Meeting with [Barbara Herr Harthorn] and learning about interdisciplinary funding opportunities was instrumental to my decision to assume a position at UCSB").

**b. Comment on the continuing productivity and influence of your participants, locally as well as nationally. Comment on evidence of prominence in the fields represented in the ORU.**

ISBER clients are productive, and many have achieved prominence in their fields. A sampling of recent projects that have achieved national or international attention include:

- ISBER Director Richard Appelbaum (Sociology, Global & International Studies) conducts research on global production systems, particularly in the apparel industry. His book *Behind the Label: Inequality in the Los Angeles Apparel Industry* (University of California Press, 2000) was selected by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the best 100 works of non-fiction for 2000. Appelbaum co-founded the Los Angeles Jewish Commission on Sweatshops, serves on the University of California (Office of the President) Advisory Committee on Trademark Licensing, is a member of the Advisory Council of the Workers' Rights Consortium, and contributed to the Smithsonian Institution exhibit *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*.
- Research conducted by the Center for Communication and Social Policy has been at the forefront of the national debate over the impact of television on youth violence. The Center's *National Television Violence Study* was important in the development of industry-generated standards and rating systems for television content. Ed Donnerstein's (Communication)

research, supported by a gift from Court TV, evaluates the effectiveness of an anti-violence curriculum aimed at middle school students. Dale Kunkel's (Communication) studies of the media portrayals of sex, sexuality, and HIV seek to identify the nature and extent of messages about sex contained in the most popular television channels in the U.S., and to consider their implications for effects on the viewing audience.

- ♦ The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military was featured last year in three different programs broadcast nationally on National Public Radio, as well as in opinion pieces and news coverage in the *New York Times*. Research conducted by Center director Aaron Belkin (Political Science) informed a *New York Times* editorial calling for gays to be allowed to serve in the U.S. military (as they are the militaries of other countries); more than two dozen journalists from National Public Radio, ABC Nightline, CBS Radio News, Voice of America, the Congressional Quarterly, and other media outlets have called the Center for information.
- ♦ Anabel Ford (ISBER professional researcher, MesoAmerican Research Center) has created a bi-national archeological and ecological conservation park between Belize and Guatemala, centered around sustainable development and preservation of the ancient Maya ruins at El Pilar. This project has received international attention and funding from sources such as the Ford and MacArthur Foundations; Dr. Ford was one of five persons (and the only American) to be honored with a Rolex Associate Laureates prize in 2000.
- ♦ Michael Goodchild (Geography) and Richard Appelbaum (Sociology, Global & International Studies) are PI and co-PI on a multiyear National Science Foundation Infrastructure Grant creating the Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (CSISS), whose mandate is to develop methods, tools, techniques, software, data access, and other services needed to promote and facilitate the integration of spatial analysis into social science research.
- ♦ Kent Jennings (Political Science), past President of the American Political Science Association, has tracked a group of high school seniors and their parents since 1965, providing a detailed understanding of what shapes political behavior over time, and the role of early political engagement in that process.
- ♦ Susan Stonich (Anthropology, Environmental Studies) is a member of the National Academy of Science / National Research Council Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change. Dr. Stonich's work is concerned with the human and environmental consequences of economic development, within the recent wave of the globalization of capital. She studies the major development strategies in the Third World, first concentrating on agricultural development and more recently on aquacultural development (industrial shrimp farming) and tourism.
- ♦ Ron Williams (ISBER professional researcher, Health Data Research Facility) developed the Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS), which is now utilized to report electronically on all of California's births and communicable diseases. Dr. Williams' Health Data Research Facility has become a significant national resource for applied research using vital statistics for public health surveillance.

Since 1994-95 (thru 1999-00), ISBER clients have reported a total of 346 publications, many in the leading scholarly journals of their fields (Appendix 2e). ISBER has also been host to 34 conferences, ranging from small workshops to conferences that have attracted international attention (Appendix 2d). Recent examples include:

- ♦ ISBER's NSF Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (CSISS) has hosted two international interdisciplinary conferences (on the use of spatial analysis to study inequality, and economic externalities), as well as supporting a number of training workshops on spatial

analysis (one in conjunction with the University of Michigan's Interuniversity Consortium on Political & Social Research).

- ISBER's Health Data Research Center, which developed the Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS) software, hosted two technical advisory group meetings to discuss the future of California's AVSS-based vital statistics data collection and use.
- ISBER's East Asia Center hosted a three-day international conference to analyze and deconstruct the meaning of "China," in terms of that nation's changing boundaries, off-shore (Diaspora) population, cultural flows, and increasing integration into the world economy.

**c. Comment on the unit's collaborative/interdisciplinary work, its quality, and its impact on ORU research efforts and the campus.**

ISBER as a unit is highly interdisciplinary, as is evidenced by the wide range of departments and disciplines served (1a above) as well as the diverse range of its current funding sources (1e below). Its client roster (Appendix 2a) and Advisory Committee Membership History (Appendix 3b) also provide an indication of ISBER's interdisciplinary nature. While many ISBER projects involve a single PI or several PIs from a single discipline, some are interdisciplinary – for example, the development of navigational systems for the blind (involving collaborations between Psychology and Geography). Most of ISBER's Centers are co-directed by scholars from more than one discipline, or have an interdisciplinary group of core participants, often across a range of social sciences and humanities – characteristics that are reflected in comments about the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of the centers ("The framework of the Center for Middle East Studies itself creates interaction between a variety of disciplines that would not exist otherwise.... All of our nine affiliated departments and programs [in the College's Islamic and Near Eastern Studies Program] benefit from ISBER's support of CMES;" "CITS [ISBER's Center for Information Technology and Society] is a great example of interdisciplinary collaboration [between Political Science and Engineering]"). Centers which are especially interdisciplinary include:

- Center for Global Studies (Sociology, Anthropology)
- Center for Communication and Social Policy (Communication, Law and Society)
- Center for Evolutionary Psychology (Anthropology, Psychology)
- Center for Information Technology and Society (Political Science, Computer Science, Psychology, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Anthropology, Communication, English)
- Center for Middle East Studies (Religious Studies, History, Sociology, History of Art & Architecture, Music)
- Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (Geography, Sociology, Anthropology)
- Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (Political Science, Sociology, Law and Society, English)
- East Asia Center (East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, History, Anthropology, Ethnomusicology, Linguistics, Political Science, Religious Studies, Art History)
- Social Science Survey Center (Communication, Sociology, Political Science)

ISBER's research development efforts further encourage interdisciplinary projects, particularly the Social Science Research Program and the Humanistic Social Science Research Program, which are intended either as seed grants to prepare promising projects for extramural funding, or enabling projects to reach conclusion (for example, through publication). Although the former is not intentionally interdisciplinary, a number of the projects involve collaborations, and several were awarded to faculty in the interdisciplinary Social Science Division departments (Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Communication, Environmental Studies, Law and Society,

Women's Studies). The latter is intentionally designed to support projects that straddle the social sciences and humanities, either through collaborations or by emphasizing humanistic social science research. The survey of ISBER clients suggested that these two programs were seen as fostering collaborative interdisciplinary work ("The fellowship competitions are just wonderful tools to promote interdisciplinary research and I think ISBER is doing a great job in that regard;" "Yes, ISBER has been critical in enhancing interdisciplinary research, particularly with respect to the social sciences....I am thinking of the grant programs for faculty in particular").

**d. Comment on significant trends within your disciplines and relate these to current research specialties in your ORU.**

Since ISBER research involves a wide range of disciplines, it is difficult to generalize about disciplinary trends and ISBER research specialties. Nonetheless, a number of examples of "cutting edge" research could be mentioned (acknowledging that definitions of "cutting edge" are subject to much debate within the social sciences and humanities, and that there are many other equally qualified candidates for this label):

- The Center for Evolutionary Psychology (<http://www.psych.ucsb.edu/research/cep/>) involves an international group of scholars comprising one of the largest and most active communities of researchers in this emerging field in the world. The Center's goals are to promote the discovery and systematic mapping of the adaptations that comprise the evolved species-typical architecture of the human mind and brain, and to explore how cultural and social phenomena can be explained as the output of such newly discovered or newly mapped psychological adaptations. Evolutionary psychology takes the controversial position (in the social sciences) that the human brain functions like a biological computer designed to generate behavior that would have been most successful in ensuring survival throughout the long evolution of the human species. In the words of Center co-directors Leda Cosmides and John Tooby, "our modern skulls house a stone age mind." Last year's Center activities examining that thesis included an international conference on "Imagination and the Adapted Mind: The Prehistory and Future of Poetry, Fiction, and Related Arts;" and research on evolution and reasoning, cognition, and emotions.
- In economics, there is a great deal of activity stimulated by the challenge and difficulty of analyzing the consequences and appropriate policy responses to global climate change. A number of ISBER researchers address this topic, albeit from different angles. Economist Steve DeCanio's research examines the economics of climate change and related policy issues, as well as the political dynamics of global environmental regulation (for example, on ozone-related policies). Economist Robert Deacon studies "The Political Economy of Environment-Development Relationships," examining the relationship between economic growth, democracy, and environmental quality. Economist Charles Kolstad last year organized a series of workshops on environmental resource economics, intended to disseminate the most recent research in this field.
- The research by Professors Jack Loomis (Psychology), Reginald Golledge (Geography), and Roberta Klatzky (Carnegie Mellon) have developed a prototype navigational aid for the blind that relies on GPS, GIS, and virtual displays, which guides a blind person through an outdoor environment, providing information about prominent landmarks and environmental features. Their project, "Navigating Without Vision," raises fundamental issues about spatial cognition and human wayfinding, as well as providing a potentially revolutionary navigational solution for the blind (the UCSB Personal

Guidance System). The research in this area is well beyond the level of interest generally found in geography, in human wayfinding, or in spatial cognition. It has provided a unique opportunity for a large group of persons interested in spatial cognition to interact on this campus (e.g., from Music, Computer Science, Psychology, Education, and Geography in particular) and has made this one of the leading groups in the world today.

- The Health Data Research Facility (<http://www.avss.ucsb.edu/>) is in the national forefront in automating birth and death records and making the resultant databases available for public health research. It developed the Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS), an on-line public health information system that electronically collects and analyzes vital records and communicable disease data, is currently used at over 500 sites in three states, including throughout the state of California.
- The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military ([www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu](http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu)) is unique among research universities. It was organized on the premise that such research can provide a critical window into the study of how actors and institutions shape and reinforce understandings of deviance, providing insights into broader processes that determine the allocation of protections and privileges. The Center's website features teaching resources, publications, research resources, media coverage of the Center, and other information. The Center has sponsored a series of speakers and conferences. It offers a forum for information exchange and debate, provides access to data and scholarly networks, and supports graduate student training.
- The Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science ([www.csiss.org](http://www.csiss.org)) received a \$3.4 million five year infrastructure grants from the National Science Foundation. CSISS's mission acknowledges the growing significance of space, spatiality, location, and place in social science research. It seeks to develop unrestricted access to tools and perspectives that will advance the spatial analytic capabilities of researchers throughout the social sciences. CSISS programs include the development of learning resources, best practice examples, national workshops, place-based search, software tools, and specialist meetings, and creating a web-based virtual community linking spatially-based research in the social sciences. Its hope is to advance the theorizing of space across the social sciences, and develop and disseminate the tools and techniques required for spatial analysis.
- The Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) in May 2000 received federal funding as a National Resource Center (NRC) from the Department of Education. There are presently only 12 U.S. universities with federally funded graduate-level centers in Middle East Studies, among them Berkeley and UCLA, making the University of California one of the premier locations for Middle Eastern Studies in the world. CMES is UCSB's first NRC in the Social Sciences and Humanities. The Center's overall funding, including the NRC award, Arabic Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) graduate fellowships in Middle Eastern studies, and UCSB matching funds, is approximately \$750,000 for the three-year period from 2000 to 2003. Additionally, the Center is supported by a recent pledge by Saudi Prince Mohamad bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of an Annual Gift of \$100,000, to support Islamic and Middle Eastern studies at UCSB. As a national resource center, the Center for Middle East Studies will work to strengthen research about the Middle East. It will also provide language training and teaching across the curriculum in Middle Eastern studies at UCSB. The Center will also engage in outreach to public schools in central California, assisting teachers who are interested in incorporating some aspect of the Middle East into their classes, whether it be cultural (such as music and food), or contemporary political issues.



- ♦ The Center for Information Technology and Society (CITS) was founded in 1999 as a response to the information revolution. Its mission is to promote cutting-edge research about the human dimensions of information technology. CITS is premised on the assumption that the revolution in new information technologies will produce profound changes in the way people live and work. Dramatic changes in commerce and business are already evident, and in coming years equally powerful changes will likely influence social structure, human identity, cultures, democracy, and relationships between nations. CITS funds research, sponsors meetings and workshops, supports human-technology laboratory facilities, and facilitates partnerships with businesses. Its activities are organized under four headings: learning, organizations, social structure and politics, and culture. An important feature of CITS is its multi-disciplinary orientation, particularly its collaboration between the College of Letters & Science and the College of Engineering. The Center has already raised \$521,838 in endowments.
  - ♦ The Social Science Survey Center, although still in the process of formation, bears mention for its potential contribution to significant research at UCSB. The Center's Benton Survey Research Laboratory has received an endowment of \$261,500 for the purchase of 20 state-of-the-art CATI (computer assisted telephone interview) stations system (it currently has 8 in operation). The Center has three central goals. First, it will assist faculty with the development and execution of survey research projects, thereby encouraging the use of this methodology throughout the social sciences at UCSB. This, in turn, will strengthen the current interdisciplinary initiative to create an ISBER Center for Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS). It will also enhance faculty chances of securing extramural funding for survey research projects. Second, it will provide practical experience for graduate and undergraduate students in survey research, in particular supporting graduate training by means of research assistantships. Third, it will contribute to new knowledge and innovations in survey research methodology – for example, enhancing understanding of response effects in surveys, the reasons for and solutions to survey non-response, and improving the validity of survey measurement. The Center will also experiment with web-based survey methodologies.
- e. Describe the possible sources and availability of extramural funds to support your research and instructional programs. Are your participants sufficiently active in the pursuit of extramural funds in light of funding possibilities? How does the extent of annual extramural research funding compare with similar units nationwide?**

The range and diversity of ISBER's clientele are matched by the wide-ranging number and variety of its funding sources. During the past year ISBER worked with a total of 55 different funding sources as well as various royalty and gift accounts, including 8 government agencies (NSF, PHS, USDOE, USDE, Dept of Commerce, EPA, the State of California, and the National Park Service), 24 private foundations (Cassamarca, Chiang Ching-kuo, FERCO, Ford, Gill, Haynes, Kaiser, MacArthur, National Geographic Society, PEW, Rockefeller, Spencer, Summerfield, Uncommon Legacy, Columbia Foundation, Compton Foundation, Follis Foundation, Getty Foundation, Haas Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Fund, Hewlett Foundation, Smith Richardson, Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation and Wenner-Gren), 6 UC systemwide sources (IGCC, UC Energy Institute, UC MEXUS, UC Policy Resource Center, UCEI, and UC Pacific Rim) and 17 other private sources (Boston Research Corp, ECSA, Longman ELT, NTVS, PPIC, Soka Gakkai, UCB, UCLA, University of Denver, University of Wisconsin, UC Davis, American Sociological Association, IREX, German Fellowship, RAND,).

ISBER thus administers a large number of grants, many of which are relatively small: the average extramural award administered in 1999-00 was approximately \$76,400. ISBER projects involved 55 UCSB faculty member PI's (many running multiple grants), 21 professional researchers, 2 research specialists, and 2 post doctoral scholars. These projects employed 80 graduate researchers and 42 paid undergraduates.

ISBER's success, as seen in its growing number of proposal submissions and funding, is due to a number of factors. First, some of this growth must be attributed to UCSB's growing stature as a research university, reflected in the quality of faculty it attracts to the social sciences and humanities. Second, as ISBER has grown in size and effectiveness, it has earned a reputation for administrative efficiency and being "user-friendly," and this has undoubtedly attracted researchers who might otherwise be running their contracts and grants through departments or other ORUs. Thirdly, and most importantly in my view, ISBER's success is due to its active efforts to promote research in the social sciences and social science/humanities interface.

Dr. Barbara Herr Harthorn, Director, Social Science Research Development, has been funded by the Office of Research to work with ISBER and the Dean of Social Sciences to provide project development support to ISBER clients. Services provided to faculty and departments and programs through Dr. Herr Harthorn's office (located adjacent to the ISBER Director's office) include disseminating calls for proposals as they arrive on campus to potential applicants, providing funding source information, conducting funding source searches (through the Illinois Researcher Information Service, the Community of Science, and the Guide to California Foundations, among other sources), consulting on the writing, preparation, and submission of extramural proposals, providing assistance in coordinating large projects, developing collaborative institutional proposals, and training and outreach (including workshops, seminars and training sessions). Dr. Herr Harthorn also developed and supports ISBER's social science funding source webpages, which provide completed funding searches, broken down by faculty or grad status, for all the social sciences disciplines and the major regions of the world (<http://www.isber.ucsb.edu/research>).

During the 1999-00 academic year, Dr. Herr Harthorn consulted individually with more than 70 UCSB faculty from 22 different departments and programs in the social sciences, humanities, life sciences, engineering, and the Bren school. She provided workshops on fund-raising and program development in a number of venues that directly benefit the academic mission of the university, including the Women, Culture & Development program, a potential interdisciplinary program in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS), the Graduate Division, the Sociology Department's graduate seminar on research strategies and careers, and the Department of English. Dr. Herr Harthorn also provided assistance that was key to successful funding on several large collaborative projects, including the Center for Middle East Studies (UCSB's first Department of Education National Resource Center award), a renewed FLAS award (in Middle Eastern Studies), a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships Residency with the Center for Chicano Studies, and an NSF Infrastructure in the Social Sciences award for the UCSB Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (CSISS). ISBER clients are uniformly enthusiastic about ISBER's support for research development. The following is typical of the comments we received (again, see Appendix 5 for a complete listing of relevant comments):

ISBER has been enormously helpful in helping me get my NSF grant. Barbara gave me detailed critiques of several drafts of my proposal, she de-mystified the application procedure because of her knowledge of a number of granting agencies, particularly NSF, and she helped me orient my proposals for different granting agencies. Not to mention her encouragement when I was turned down at first. The administrative assistance with my proposal has also been outstanding. This includes preparation of the document, getting Human Subjects' approval, keeping the budget, and so on.

Finally, as noted above, Dr. Herr Harthorn (in conjunction with ISBER Director Appelbaum) oversees two intramural funding programs: the ISBER Social Science Research Grants Program, and the Humanistic Social Science Research Program. These programs are intended to support promising efforts in the social sciences, either as seed grants to generate extramural funding for new efforts, or as support to see existing efforts through to completion. They were initiated for a 3-year period beginning in 1998-99.

**The ISBER Social Science Research Grants Program (SSRGP)** was designed to try to make a measurable impact on social science research at UCSB in a relatively short time frame. Hence it has focused exclusively on either helping new projects get up and running (e.g., doing research in preparation for an extramural grant proposal) or bringing projects to a conclusion (e.g., producing a publication). The SSRGP was provided with \$125,000 in funding over 3 years by the Executive Vice Chancellor, Ilene Nagel, and the Dean of Social Sciences, Ed Donnerstein. Dean Donnerstein additionally committed to provide one-to-one matching commitments on any awards of release time made to faculty applicants. ISBER's Director, Rich Appelbaum, is chair of the SSRGP and Dr. Herr Harthorn is responsible for the program's administration. The SSRGP has issued one Request for Proposals each of the 3 years of its operation, and is conducting the review of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year's applications at this writing. The program is open to all ladder faculty in the Social Science Division, which includes the following 10 departments and programs--Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Communication, Economics, Law and Society, Political Science, Sociology, and Women's Studies. The program is widely advertised by printed and e-mail announcements, and the guidelines and application materials are posted on the ISBER website.

Since its inception in Spring 1999, the Social Science Research Grants Program through two funding competitions awarded approximately \$76,900 in 14 grants involving faculty in 8 social science departments (the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle will conclude by the end of Feb. 2001). The maximum award size is \$8,000. Each round has generated more fundable proposals than there are funds to allocate, indicating significant need for the program. The projects funded cover a range from collaborative departmental based research project start up to the completion of individual book manuscripts. (See Appendix 9 for a summary of the program's results to date.) All projects have resulted in significant scholarly research outcomes such as submitted or published journal articles, completed book manuscripts, data compilation for successful extramural proposal submission, research conferences, the development of new international collaborations, and the opportunity to explore new lines of interdisciplinary, collaborative research. Award recipients mentioned a number of benefits of the program, including: enabling them to hire graduate research assistants to gather data, analyze documents, prepare data for analysis, and provide editorial research assistance for the completion of a book manuscript; initiate or develop new lines of inquiry; conduct field research; meet with collaborators at other institutions, for the purpose of writing proposals for extramural funding; and complete proposal applications.

The **Humanistic Social Science Research Program (HSSRP)** is a much smaller program, funded with \$30,000 total for 3 years by the Vice Chancellor for Research, France Córdova, and the Dean of Social Sciences, Ed Donnerstein. Dean Donnerstein additionally committed to provide one-to-one matching commitments on awards of release time made to faculty applicants in this program as well. Professor of Sociology, Kum-Kum Bhavnani, was appointed chair of the HSSRP, and ISBER was asked to administer the program. In 2000-2001, Assoc. Professor of Anthropology, Eve Darian-Smith, became the chair of the HSSRP since Prof. Bhavnani was on leave for the year. The HSSRP issued two Requests for Proposals in 1999-00 and one in Fall, 2001. In its 3 funding cycles since Fall 1999 the HSSRP has awarded approximately \$30,450 in 13 grants to faculty in 7 social science departments. Maximum award size is \$3,500. Award recipients mentioned a number

of benefits of the program, including: conducting field research, such as interviews and archival research; release time to complete book projects; and complete articles for journals.

**f. Comment on your unit's participation in significant multidisciplinary activity.**

Many of ISBER's Centers and researchers participate in interdisciplinary activity. ISBER facilitates such collaborations by providing the infrastructure for recharges between campuses, by providing support for conferences and workshops that include scholars from other institutions, and in general by facilitating the development of interdisciplinary research projects. One of ISBER's clients commented that ISBER "provides an environment for continuous academic discussion and interaction in the multidisciplinary context with post doctorates and visiting scientists from different universities in North America and overseas." Through its Social Science Research Grants Program and its Humanistic Social Science research Program, ISBER is the primary unit (and the only ORU) devoted to assisting grant writing and interdisciplinary research in the social sciences and in cross-over projects that link the social sciences with the humanities, behavioral sciences, and geographical sciences. As one of ISBER's clients commented regarding the latter, "For someone like me who straddles the line this is essential."

The ISBER Director's discretionary fund is occasionally used to help pay for speakers to come to UCSB, particularly when their visits can be used to meet with ISBER researchers in their field for the purpose of discussing collaborative multidisciplinary projects. Discretionary funds are also sometimes used to fund conference travel for ISBER researchers, enabling them to present their research in a multidisciplinary context.

The survey of ISBER clients revealed unanimous agreement that ISBER should continue and even expand its support for multidisciplinary activity. The question, "Do you believe ISBER should continue this broad interdisciplinary focus, or become more specialized?" produced comments such as: "I applaud any and all attempts to support interdisciplinary research and ISBER is a central part of it;" "Continue the interdisciplinary approach...there is much to be gained by sharing of ideas and approaches and little, if any, negatives as they relate to research productivity;" "Staying unspecialized is preferred;" "I like the broad focus...it provides a home for interdisciplinary research and good colleagues;" "I am strongly in favor of ISBER supporting interdisciplinary projects, as long as the social sciences continue to be well served;" "Preserve broad focus. no one else does this on campus;" "As the push toward interdisciplinary research becomes more and more evident in all divisions of the university, it would be foolish to re-divide us along traditional lines and thereby deprive us of all of the interdisciplinary energy and initiative that is created in a multidisciplinary unit such as ISBER;" and "Yes, since the future IS interdisciplinary." The case for ISBER's continued role in supporting collaborative, multidisciplinary projects is summarized by one respondent as follows:

I personally believe that multidisciplinary interaction is a very important part of academe. While much of this type of interaction depends on the willingness of individuals to talk to each other in a reasonable manner, it is also partly made possible by providing the infrastructure and facilities to allow these interactions to take place. The idea of an organized research unit has significant value, and ISBER is performing such a service for a wide variety of groups. There should be no attempt to try to restrain these interactions just to the social sciences. The disciplinary boundaries are breaking down everywhere, and no one knows which combination of human, life, biological, social, mathematical, or other sciences and humanities will produce the next major breakthrough in the history of humankind. ISBER should retain a multidisciplinary integrated science emphasis and encourage this type of activity throughout its infrastructure. Even when this involves providing services for

departments in colleges other than the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, the opportunities should not be ignored.

## **2. Graduate Education**

### **a. What contributions does the ORU make toward graduate education?**

The majority of projects administered by ISBER involve graduate students, who benefit by learning research skills and often conducting research that contributes directly to their masters theses and doctoral dissertations. By enabling graduate students to work on funded projects with faculty members, ISBER clearly plays a role in enhancing their training and potentially their future career prospects. One ISBER client commented “I view their participation as that of co-investigators, not just research assistants, and the result is that a number of our recent papers have been co-authored. Needless to say, the publication of peer-reviewed articles is an advantage for these students as they enter the job market.”

Graduate students benefit from ISBER’s research development efforts, since faculty research projects typically employ graduate students. Although it is outside her duties, Barbara Herr Harthorn also provides occasional research seminars for graduate students, as well as consulting directly with those who are seeking extramural funding for their projects. One of ISBER’s Centers (the Center for Middle East Studies, CMES) provides federally-funded graduate student fellowships to support students from any discipline who are studying Arabic as part of their graduate program. CMES’ various outreach programs also use graduate students as the primary facilitators, teachers, or researchers. Once the Social Science Survey Center is fully operational, it will provide both employment and training for graduate students interested in survey research methodology.

During 1999-2000, 80 graduate students were employed by ISBER projects. Additionally, 16 different projects were proposed and funded solely for dissertation support (these are included in Appendix 2a; see also *Annual Report, 1999-2000*, Part F: “Other Projects and Activities – Research Experiences for Graduates”). Dissertation projects involved 13 different students (one student received funding from three different sources) working with ten different faculty members in four departments. Seven projects involved students in Anthropology, four in Sociology, two in Linguistics, and one in Religious Studies. Four different funding sources were represented: the National Science Foundation (eight projects); the University of California’s Pacific Rim Research Program, in which graduate student proposals compete directly with faculty proposals for funding (three projects), UC MEXUS (one project), and UCSB Intramural funding (one project).

ISBER projects provide a wide range of benefits for graduate education, reflecting the diversity of scholarly interests among its clientele. Benefits reported in the survey include: providing office space for graduate research assistants; the development of research skills; a scholarly environment (including discussion groups, conferences and workshops, and mentoring relationships in general); technical training, including software development; and funding for interdisciplinary collaborations. As one respondent noted, “The research grants that we have administered through ISBER have had a huge impact on graduate education in our department, allowing us to build very solid research skills into our graduate program, as well as allowing specific creative inquiry using advanced new data types and formats.”

### **b. Evaluate your success in contributing to the campus attracting and retaining graduate students.**

We have little direct information on this topic. One client commented that “The last project I had through the office certainly landed a job for one student and further grants for others. It also was influential in attracting graduate students to our doctoral program. We needed the space provided by the office, without which we could not have carried out our project.” Another mentioned that as her program (Women’s Studies) expands to offer an MA and/or Ph.D. program, ISBER’s support for funded research “will become of serious importance to potential and enrolled graduate students.”

### **3. Undergraduate Education**

- a. What contribution does the ORU make toward undergraduate education? In some ORUs this goal is sometimes not appropriate, i.e., where safety is an issue. If this is the case, please explain why involving undergraduates in the research process in your ORU is not advantageous.**

During 1999-2000, 42 undergraduate students were employed on 16 different ISBER projects. An unknown number of students also get course credit for working on ISBER projects. ISBER’s Center for Middle East Studies supports the undergraduate curriculum in Middle East studies in areas such as Persian language instruction, Hindi/Urdu language instruction, providing a Middle East bibliographer position at the UCSB library, and funding visiting faculty in the social sciences. In past years, other ISBER Centers have provided extensive research experience for undergraduates: for example, ISBER’s Center for Communication and Social Policy employed dozens of undergraduates in coding and content analyzing data for its National Television Violence Study, while the MesoAmerican Research Center’s El Pilar program provided many undergraduates with hands-on Archeological experience at the Belize research site. As one respondent to the survey noted, “ISBER has allowed me to hire undergraduates for serious research activities, which in some cases has inspired the students to go on to do interesting and creative work (whether academic or not) in their later life.”

- b. If appropriate, is there any evidence that the ORU helped contribute to job placement rates or graduate/professional school enrollments for undergraduates after graduation?**

We have no direct evidence on this (although see above comments).

### **4. Support Services: Assess the quality of the research environment with respect to:**

- a. Budget**

Despite the growth in ISBER’s contract and grant activity in recent years, its budget has remained largely unchanged. As shown in appendix 5A, ISBER’s operating funds have increased slightly over the past five years, from \$223,838 in 1995-96 to \$254,438 in 1999-00 (14%); during the same period, total annual income from contracts, grants, foundations, gifts, and all other sources doubled, growing from \$1,955,701 to \$3,984,304 over the same period. As a consequence, ISBER’s operating expense ratio has declined from 11.45% to 6.39%. (See also Figure 3.)

ISBER’s budget presently includes funding for its Director (1 quarter release, monthly stipend, and 1.5 ninths summer salary, 5.5 staff FTE (see below, under staff), as well as a modest amount for supplies, \$13,723, which includes a recent budget augmentation of \$5,000 from the Office of

Research. It should be noted, however, that the State of California requires the University of California to return part of its annual appropriations each year. This is known as a budgetary savings target. ISBER's share of this budgetary savings target was \$7,563 this year and comes directly from the \$13,723 of supplies money. Presently we have no fixed budget for equipment, student assistants or travel. ISBER's system administrator is funded permanently at .50 FTE. Temporary money provided by the Dean of Social Sciences and recharge activity enable us to employ the system administrator full-time. Similarly we have pieced together funding to hire a .50 FTE administrative assistant who helps out with conference coordination and general office support. Half of this position is permanently budgeted with funds from the Office of Research. Temporary funding from the Dean of the Social Sciences funds the balance of this position. As mentioned earlier, Dr. Herr Harthorn, Director of Social Science Research Development, is funded at .75 FTE by the Office of Research (with partial subsidy from the College of L&S); the Vice Chancellor for Research has assigned her to work with ISBER and the Dean of Social Sciences. ISBER's Director has a modest amount of money (\$12,125 annually, unchanged since he assumed Directorship eight years ago), which is used to support research development efforts – for example, Dr. Herr Harthorn's Research Development Assistant, as well as occasional small grants in support of visiting speakers or scholars.

In addition, for the last several years ISBER has received between \$14,000 and \$18,000 per year for overhead return. These funds are used to support costs generated by our projects that may not be directly charged to the grants and are generally used to pay for phones, copying costs and general office supplies.

## **b. Space**

Space is at a premium at UCSB, and ISBER is no exception. ISBER presently occupies 8,225 assignable square feet of space, including 30 separate offices (several of which are subdivided into suites or separate workspaces), 2 mail/photocopy rooms, 2 conference rooms, and two storage rooms. (A list of current space allocation is provided in Appendix 4.) ISBER's administrative offices, conference rooms, and four of its Centers (the Health Data Research Facility, Survey Research, Global Studies, and the Center for Information Technology and Society) are located on the second floor of North Hall (south wing). There is one divided office suite (two small offices and an outer room) used to house ISBER's Research Development Assistant, projects connected with the Center for Global Studies, and visiting scholars.

The majority of ISBER's client offices are located on the first floor of North Hall (north wing), and thus are separated from the administrative offices by the major wing of North Hall (which houses the Economics Department). Nineteen offices are allocated among 5 ISBER Centers (East Asia, MesoAmerican Research, Advanced Study of Individual Differences, Study of Discourse, and Communication and Social Policy), 5 individual faculty projects, and 5 professional researchers. (One office is used as a mailroom and for photocopying.) As noted above, last year ISBER's 125 PIs and co-PIs were involved in 123 projects. It is obvious that space allocations are not adequate to meet their needs.

Planning is currently underway for a new social science building, scheduled to be constructed in 2005-07. ISBER will be one of the occupants of the building, and at this time has been allocated 11,300 square feet of space, a 37% increase over its present allocation. ISBER is involved in space planning for the building, and so has a unique opportunity to configure its future space requirements to its administrative and research-based needs, in conjunction with many of the departments and units it serves. (Projected co-occupants include the Departments of Sociology, Political Science, Film Studies, and Communication; the Law and Society Program; and Letters and Science

Information Technology, with some associated computer lab space.) At the same time, the projected space increase is inadequate to ISBER's present needs, much less its needs five years out, even at a reduced rate of growth.

### **c. Equipment**

ISBER has created a relatively sophisticated computer infrastructure, which is noteworthy in light of the fact that we have no permanent budget for equipment. Our focus in the last few years has been on upgrading computers, software, wiring, routers and hubs with one-time money from a building renovation project and from the Office of Research. Our "server farm" currently hosts ISBER e-mail, web sites, all ISBER administrative data as well as servers supporting some of our individual projects. All data is backed up nightly and back-ups are stored off-site. ISBER clients are expected to fund their equipment needs through their contracts and grants, although many social science funding source do not permit requests for such permanent equipment in their proposals.

ISBER's computer infrastructure is managed by a full-time Systems Administrator (who also serves as a webmaster). We were fortunate to have employed a very talented person, John Lin, until last September who was responsible for planning and implementing much of our network. We have been equally fortunate to have replaced John with Randall Ehren who continues to design and develop improvements to our system. ISBER provides technical and networking support for the new Benton Survey Research Center, and is in the process of bringing its CATI system on line. ISBER also provides support for the Health Data Research Facility's computer infrastructure, which created and deployed the Automated Vital Statistics Software to hundreds of health care providers throughout the State of California. As one client noted, ISBER's computing infrastructure "It is very good and is getting better. For example, the computer network environment has improved greatly over the last five years and future plans appear to project even more capability and support."

It should be noted that there is no regular budget item for equipment acquisition and replacement. These needs are met through an annual capital needs request to the Office of Research, in which ISBER's needs are competing with compelling requests from other ORUs, for extremely limited resources. Needless to say, this system makes long-term planning extremely difficult.

### **d. Administrative, Clerical and Technical Support Staff**

ISBER's support staff functions extremely well, particularly given the increased demands associated with the unit's growing activity. In recent years, ISBER's core staff (MSO, Contract and Grant Accounts Manager, Personnel Assistant, Purchasing/Travel Assistant) has been augmented by the addition of a Systems Administrator and an Administrative Assistant (who also provides limited program support for clients).

ISBER MSO Tim Schmidt has signature authority on proposals, which enables ISBER to provide one-stop service to clients (who do not have to get final approval for proposals from the Office of Research). This was initially an experimental program, made possible by the fact that prior to coming to ISBER, MSO Schmidt had this responsibility for the Office of Research. This greatly expedites the proposal process, and is much appreciated by clients; it also augments the workload of the office and its MSO at the same time that it reduces workload to Office of Research Sponsored Projects staff, for which contribution ISBER is not compensated.

ISBER staff get high marks from ISBER clients; as one client succinctly put it, "The staff are just great at providing administrative support." One comment, quoted at length, captures this spirit:



The ISBER staff has been most organized, collegial, and immediately responsive to my needs. I cannot speak too highly of ISBER's administrative support. Tim Schmidt provides me with timely and clear reports on budgets, and in addition to her regular assistance with payroll, Jan Holtzclaw has aided me in urgent, last-minute payroll matters with an efficiency and willingness I rarely see on campus. Tim Schmidt and Jan Jacobson assisted me and Barbara Herr Harthorn in hosting an Irish scholar, Jo Murphy-Lawless, in November 2000. Jan Jacobson promptly sorted out the details of international guest regulations and paperwork, and Tim Schmidt provided the needed coordination of funding from our on-campus co-sponsors. This behind-the-scenes service reveals another aspect of the depth of ISBER's excellent resources and more than competent staff. On another note, the paperwork for my RAs is clearly laid out for them in the ISBER office and it is easily understandable. The North Hall location is easily accessible.

### **LOOKING AHEAD: DIRECTOR'S ANALYSIS**

ISBER's client base and workload have grown rapidly in recent years, and, despite a lack of corresponding growth in budget, staffing, and space, manages to serve its clients well. Future growth will clearly strain ISBER's systems, however. While it is impossible to predict the future, the portents for continued growth are good on several grounds. First, the federal funding climate for the social sciences is projected to improve. For example, the NSF as a whole received a 14% budget increase in 2000-01 and is projected to double its budget in about 6 years. A new initiative is planned in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences that will emphasize interdisciplinary research. NIH, whose resources are greatly underutilized at UCSB, is increasingly emphasizing the importance of behavioral research. Second, ISBER's current and future research development efforts will continue to bear fruit, in the form of successful extramural proposals. Third, there is no reason to believe that the past trend in ISBER funding will be reversed, at least as long as ISBER continues to serve the campus community well. Even a slowing in growth of projects and Centers will result in substantially increased workload and requirements 7-10 years out.

I believe that ISBER's broad, inclusive, interdisciplinary mission is serving the university well, and should not be changed. ISBER's proposals for additional Centers should continue to be supported by the Office of Research, provided, of course, that the Centers are justified under established UC criteria. At the same time, ISBER's likely growth, in a context of continuing scarce resources, poses the principal challenge in the near future. I have some thoughts about managing this challenge, discussed below.

### **Strengthening ISBER's Administration**

ISBER's central office is functioning well, but it is necessary to plan for future growth. My recommendations include:

- ♦ A permanent, 100% FTE budget line for the Financial Assistant position, currently funded at the level of 50% with a combination of permanent and temporary money. This position could be expanded to include additional support for conference planning.
- ♦ Funding for a 50% webmaster position. A number of ISBER's Centers have websites, and demand continues to grow. Currently, ISBER's systems administrator also serves as *de facto* webmaster, but this is not an efficient use of his time. CITS and the Survey Research Center will both increasingly rely on their websites to support their research efforts. A webmaster could serve a range of ISBER clients, increasing their visibility and providing economies in website development. ISBER's research development efforts would benefit from such a position, which would make it easier to update ISBER's online, prepackaged fund searches,

provide up-to-date information on funding opportunities, and create Web resources to walk people through the proposal process.

- A permanent budget line for capital equipment needs, including the purchase of additional equipment (primarily computers), and the replacement of old equipment. ISBER should have the ability to provide a few computers (as well as office space) for visiting scholars.

### **Furthering ISBER's Research Development**

ISBER's research development efforts are working well. In my view, they could be strengthened by:

- Continuation of the Social Science Research Grants Program, and the Humanistic Social Science Research Program. These pilot projects have been successful, and should become a permanent part of ISBER's research development efforts.
- A permanent, 50% FTE budget line for the Research Development Assistant, currently funded (at 25% time) out of the Director's discretionary fund. This would provide continuity for the position, as well as permit its expansion into such activities as on-going scanning of funding sources/RFPs, dissemination of funding information to ISBER clients, creating Web resources that walk grad students through the proposal process, etc.
- Moving the Director of Social Science Research Development position into ISBER (Dr. Herr Harthorn's position). Currently, this position is in the Office of Research, but is made available to ISBER on an on-going basis. In fact, Dr. Herr Harthorn shares an office suite with the ISBER Director, serves on the ISBER Advisory Committee, and plays an important role in a wide range of ISBER functions. When the ISBER Director is away from the office for any extended period, she has signature authority in his absence. Dr. Herr Harthorn in many respects serves as an Associate Director of ISBER. ISBER is fortunate to have the support of the Vice Chancellor for Research, in making her available to ISBER. But I believe it is time to make *de jure* what has up until now been *de facto*; most faculty already perceive her to be in this position.
- Increase Dr. Herr Harthorn's funded FTE from 75% to 85%, reflecting her time contribution to the university, and providing a support budget of \$5,000 per year as well (currently, the Office of Research provides \$500 per year).

### **Enhancing ISBER's Intellectual Support Structure**

Despite the diversity of its clientele, ISBER has emerged, in *ad hoc* fashion, as a meeting ground for people with shared interest. Some of this activity occurs naturally within Centers; some has been sparked with small ISBER seed grants for graduate research assistance; and some has simply occurred informally among ISBER researchers. For example, in the past several years ISBER has housed a global studies reading group; a reading group in medical anthropology, that resulted in a panel at the last year's annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association (and is currently resulting in an edited volume); a transnational cultural studies research focus group, with a particular focus on feminist interpretations of globalization; and an ISBER-sponsored discussion group that helped to shape the Women, Culture, Development program (a program and minor in the Global & International Studies Program). The Centers for Information Technology and Society and Middle Eastern Studies host on-going discussions among scholars across the campus as a part of their routine operations.

ISBER could play a stronger role in creating opportunities for faculty dialogues across fields. This would be especially beneficial to faculty who are not associated with established Centers, who are the sole investigators on their projects, who are looking for collaborations, or who are in small interdisciplinary fields (for example, Women's Studies, Law & Society) where they must – in the

words of one ISBER researcher – “look to the university in general to find adequate intellectual sustenance.” Proposals include:

- Support for Research Discussion Groups (RDGs) in the Social Sciences. This model – currently used by the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center – involves hosting, on a monthly basis, meetings of 6-10 faculty scholars, to address common interests through shared readings or the pursuit of a collaborative research project. ISBER could begin a pilot project with 2-3 groups, then expand the program if it proves successful. The program would also include a limited number of RDG Lectures, involving visiting scholars. These lectures would be open to the campus community; visitors would also be expected to meet with their RDG sponsors. ISBER would provide meeting space; funding for publicity, photocopying, and visiting scholars; office space for visiting scholars; and help with publicizing events. Although ISBER meeting space is currently limited to two small conference rooms, space planning for the projected social science building could include shared facilities for such events.
- ISBER could also provide limited financial support for RDGs to those ISBER Centers that lack the funding or resources to do so themselves.
- ISBER could offer a small number of graduate student fellowships (perhaps 6-8 annually), on a competitive basis, to provide training and assistance in conducting research and writing up their results. These students would be expected to meet regularly to share their experiences, discuss common problems, and present research results. Such an experience would help to expose a cohort of students to methodologies and knowledge across a range of social science disciplines.
- ISBER could offer (and advertise) 1-2 visiting postdocs/year for scholars (national and international) who wish to affiliate with ISBER at specific ISBER Centers, or with individual ISBER researchers or research groups. Funding could be sought for this purpose, although it would be ideal for a “named” gift to ISBER by a donor.

### **Planning for ISBER’s Future Space Needs**

As noted above, ISBER is part of the planning for the projected social science building. Our challenge will be to have a strong voice in the planning, assuring that ISBER’s space needs are met (within the constraints of the limited increase that has been promised), and that the physical configuration of the building makes the most of ISBER’s ability to serve as the core research unit for the social sciences. This is an excellent opportunity, and the ISBER Director has had discussions with the Dean about ISBER’s role, and the possibility that ISBER (and its Centers) is well-positioned to play a role in fund-raising for building expansion.

### **The Issue of ISBER’s Administrative Location**

ISBER’s success – its continuing growth, and particularly the addition of new Centers whose mandate crosses administrative divisions (for example, Centers that involve teaching, or envision endowed chairs), has led to questions concerning the relationship of ISBER to other administrative units, and particularly the College of Letters and Science, which is responsible for teaching and faculty appointments. In particular, the possibility of ISBER relocating from the Office of Research to either the Social Science Division of the College, or directly to the Provost of the College, has been raised by the EVC, the VCR, and the Social Science Dean. In August 1999, VCR France Córdova sent ISBER Director Appelbaum a memo which included the following request:

In the coming year I would like the [Advisory] Committee to have a dialog with Dean Donnerstein and the cognizant department heads on some ‘existential’ questions

concerning the Institute [ISBER] and its relation to the academic departments. For example: How is the Institute evolving in relation to the departments? Is the current structure (or its go-to point) the best model for the social science research infrastructure at UCSB?

During a series of meetings with ISBER's Advisory Board and social science chairs, held during the 1999-2000 academic year, the strong consensus was that the present organizational structure (with ISBER an ORU within the Office of Research) is in ISBER's best interest. ISBER already enjoys close coordination with the Social Science Dean, and the present arrangement works well. There was concern that relocation to the Social Science Division would narrow ISBER's broad, interdisciplinary focus, in perception and likely in reality as well. There was also concern that ISBER might be disadvantaged in terms of resources, since it would be competing for support with the many departments and other units of the Division. (Currently, ISBER's budget comes from the Office of Research, and ISBER has been successful in obtaining support from the Social Science Dean as well.)

More recently, the ISBER Director has held discussions with the Social Science Dean and the Provost of the College of Letters and Science, as well as the ISBER Advisory Board, to further explore the possible benefits and costs of relocation to the Provost's office. These discussions were sparked by ISBER's pending relocation to the projected social science building, which is under the jurisdiction of the Provost. Since the Provost administers all three Divisions of the College, this would provide a more interdisciplinary umbrella for ISBER than relocation to the Social Science Division. In conjunction with this review, ISBER clients were also surveyed concerning their thoughts on such a relocation.

It is the consensus of ISBER's Director, ISBER's Advisory Board, and those ISBER clients who responded to the survey, that the current arrangement should not be changed, at least for the present time. ISBER should continue to focus on its primary mission – research development and support in the social sciences – and not dilute that mission by moving into other areas (such as teaching) which are the province of the academic departments. When ISBER's activities occasionally move into other areas (for example, a faculty appointment for an endowed chair in a Center), ISBER can coordinate with the relevant units of the College. One administrative mechanism, which ISBER has used in the past, is to constitute an oversight committee for any Center that envisions a faculty appointment or other activity that is normally the responsibility of the College or its Divisions. Such a committee is comprised of the Vice Chancellor for Research, ISBER Director, and appropriate Dean.

Recommendation: That ISBER's present administrative location remain unchanged.

## **PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUED ORU EXISTENCE**

In light of the previous discussion of ISBER's achievements, contributions to research, graduate and undergraduate education, and public service, it is formally proposed that ISBER continue to serve as the principal ORU for the social sciences at UCSB. This report has sought to satisfy the requirements for ORU establishment (required also for ORU continuation), specifically:

To establish an ORU or MRU, the faculty members concerned submit a proposal stating the proposed unit's goals and objectives. The proposal should describe what value and capabilities will be added by the new unit, and explain why they cannot be achieved within the existing campus structure. It should make clear how the ORU or MRU will be greater than the sum of its parts, for example, by fostering new intellectual collaborations, stimulating new sources of funding, furthering innovative and original research, or performing service and outreach to the public.

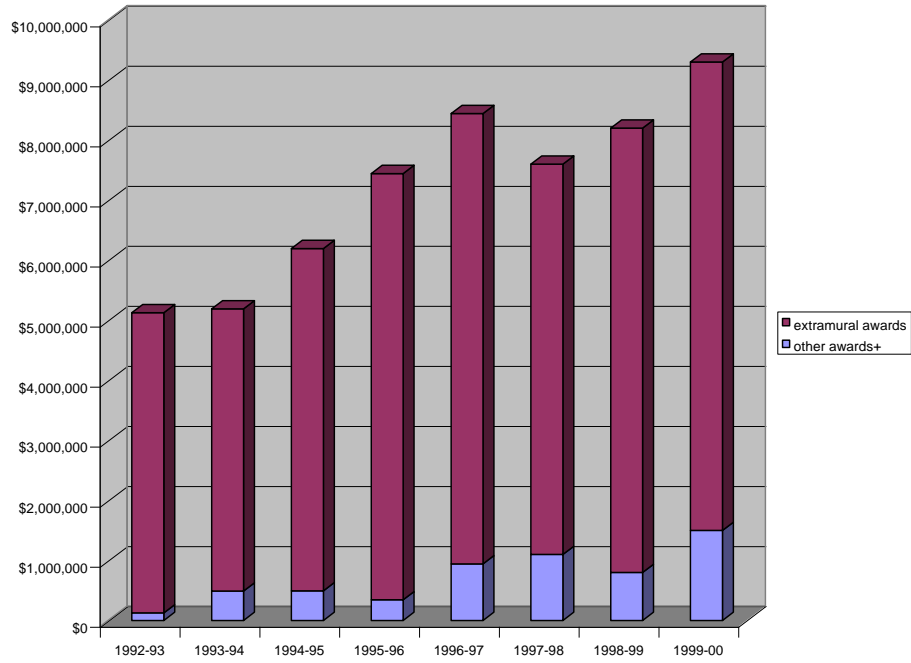
The procedures for (re) establishing an ORU or MRU further require that the following be addressed:

- ♦ **Experience of the core faculty in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research collaborations:** Provided in the above report.
- ♦ **Research plan for the first year of operation and projections for the five years following:** Also provided in above report, which describes in detail ISBER Centers and individual PIs and their projects. The report also contains proposals to accommodate ISBER's expected future growth. These include: strengthening ISBER's administrative functions, furthering ISBER's research development efforts, enhancing ISBER's intellectual support structure, providing for space planning in light of the projected social science building, and the appropriate administrative location for ISBER at UCSB.
- ♦ **Budget estimates for the first year of operation, projections for the five years following, and anticipated sources of funding:** Next year's budget will be determined by the Office of Research. It is expected that the budget will be, at a minimum, similar to this year's budget; it is hoped that augmentations will be available, reflecting the needs described in this report. Anticipated sources of funding, as in the past, will be the Office of Research (for the permanent budget) the Social Science Dean, and the Executive Vice Chancellor (if the social science research grant program is continued). Five year projections are unrealistic; continued growth in extramural funding, the number of PIs and projects, and ISBER Centers is anticipated.
- ♦ **Names of faculty members who have agreed in writing to participate in the unit's activities:** All of ISBER's PIs comprise its faculty members.
- ♦ **Projections of numbers of faculty members and students, professional research appointees, and other personnel for the specified periods:** Prediction is impossible; growth is anticipated. What is at issue is ISBER's ability to accommodate growth, given budgetary constraints.
- ♦ **Statement about immediate space needs and how they will be met for the first year and realistic projections of future space needs:** Discussed in the preceding report. ISBER will continue to occupy its present North hall space, and will hopefully expand somewhat when it moves into the projected social science building.
- ♦ **Statement of other resource needs, such as capital equipment and library resources, and how they will be met for the first year, and realistic projections of future resource needs:** Addressed in the preceding report.
- ♦ **Statement about anticipated benefits of the proposed unit to the teaching programs of the participating faculty members' departments:** Addressed in the preceding report.
- ♦ **Statement specifying the appropriate administrative unit's commitment of funds, space, and other resources necessary for the successful operation of the**

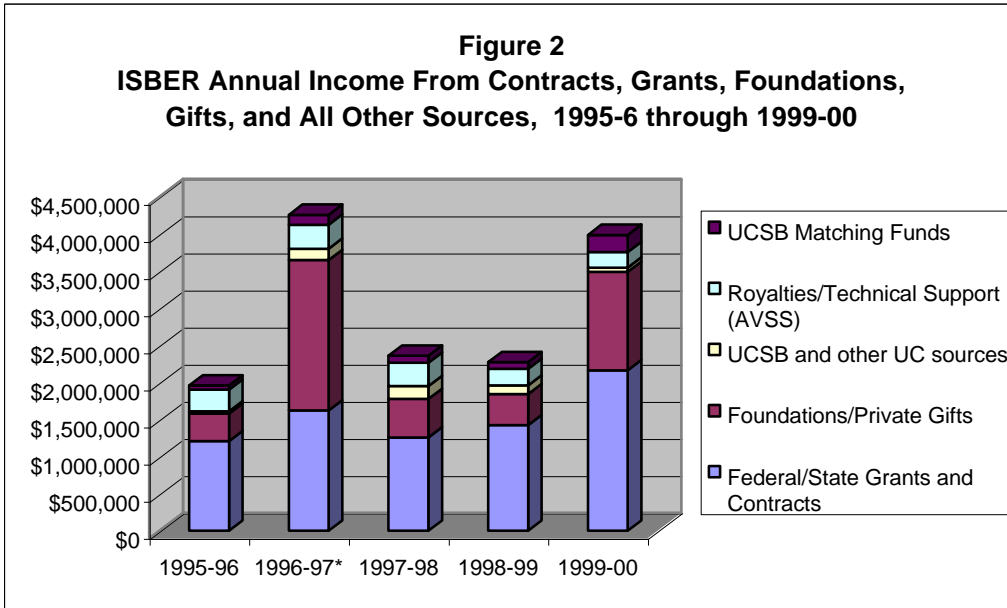
**proposed ORU. Actual or potential availability of extramural funds shall not serve as the sole basis for proposing, approving, or continuing an ORU. This will be provided by the Office of Research.**

- ♦ **The proposal shall also list similar units that exist elsewhere, describe the relation of the proposed unit to similar units at other campuses of the University of California, and describe the contributions to the field that the proposed unit may be anticipated to make that are not made by existing units:** One of the objectives of the external review is to provide comparative data on similar units elsewhere; this information will be provided after the review.

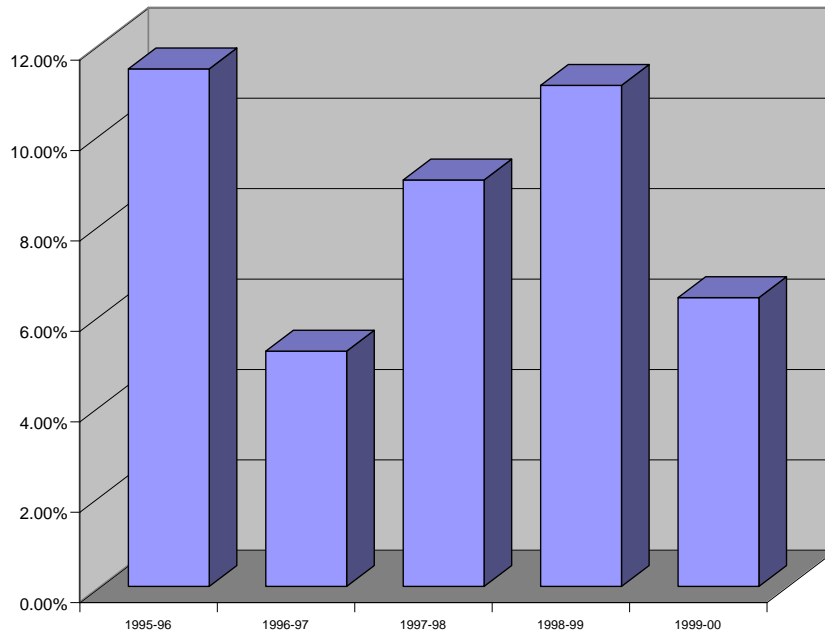
**Figure 1**  
**Multiyear Value of Awards Administered by ISBER,**  
**1992-93 through 1999-00**



**Figure 2**  
**ISBER Annual Income From Contracts, Grants, Foundations,**  
**Gifts, and All Other Sources, 1995-6 through 1999-00**



**Figure 3**  
**ISBER Operating Funds In Relationship to Annual Income From**  
**Contracts, Grants, and Other Sources, 1995-96 through 1999-00**



\*Note: In 1996-97 ISBER received a \$1,508,732 grant from the National Cable Television Association in support of the National Television Violence Study.

	<b>1995-96</b>	<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01*</b>
Federal/State Grants and Contracts	1,208,570	1,622,069	1,256,590	1,422,246	2,161,861	2,209,181
Foundations/Private Gifts	368,434	2,022,877	520,483	418,107	1,324,836	546,866
UCSB and other UC sources	32,315	154,447	172,188	116,340	59,007	128,107
Royalties/Technical Support (AVSS)	290,922	322,975	314,504	224,137	208,291	172,790
UCSB Matching Funds	55,460	133,721	95,364	89,836	230,309	163,418
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,955,701</b>	<b>4,256,089</b>	<b>2,359,129</b>	<b>2,270,666</b>	<b>3,984,304</b>	<b>3,220,362</b>

\*2000-01: through February 2001