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Dear Dr. Singha,

I am in the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab) where I conduct experimental research in Nuclear Physics. The purpose of this letter is to acquaint you with the terms under which Jefferson Lab seeks to establish MOU's with universities with a significant stake in its program over the next five years, and to seek your help in finding ways to satisfy them. The MOU is negotiated within the context of the "12 GeV Upgrade", which is a 400M$ initiative in basic nuclear science that is a key component of the Dept. of Energy Basic Science investment in the coming decade. Our Nuclear Physics group at UConn has a highly visible role in the flagship experiment called GlueX which will be made possible with the upgraded 12 GeV beams at Jefferson Lab, with primary responsibility for constructing two key components of the experimental apparatus.

I presently have 3 federal grants (NSF operating, DOE STTR, NSF-PIF) plus a large faculty grant internal award providing a total of $210,000 per year in direct costs for 2010. These funds presently cover operations of my group to participate in the R&D phase of this project. If my group is to fulfill our intention to construct the apparatus that we have designed and prototyped, we will need to receive construction funds for materials and labor beyond what my group operating grant can cover. I estimate that I will be able to obtain a total of $600,000 in additional funding over the next 5 years in construction contracts with Jefferson Lab if I am able to reach agreement with them on the terms of this MOU.

I have been provided with copies of a number of MOU's that have already been signed between Jefferson Lab and a number of peer institutions: Indiana Univ., Idaho State Univ., Univ. of North Carolina, Univ. of Regina, and others. No two are identical, but all of them have the following elements in common.

1. No overhead will be charged for materials or components which will be assembled into major apparatus to be installed in the experimental hall at Jefferson Lab. This includes parts that are ordered from external vendors whose individual cost would not reach the threshold for "equipment" under university rules, but whose total system cost after assembly would.

2. A reduced overhead rate for labor costs, relative to what would be charged if the research were being conducted on the university campus. The scope of work to be undertaken by UConn researchers under this MOU entails labor that is divided between the Storrs campus, facilities at collaborating institutions, and the experimental site at Jefferson Lab. The project benefits from flexibility in what gets done where, and rather than trying to fix that ratio in the budget, the MOU stipulates a single overhead rate for labor that represents a reasonable compromise between on-site and off-site rates.

As an example of item 2 above, Indiana University stated in its MOU that it would charge an overhead rate of 32% on all labor performed under the Jefferson Lab contract. As a peer institution, I.U. is quite similar to UConn with its current F&A rate of 54% for on-campus research and its equipment threshold of $5K. I am not sure what the I.U. F&A rate is for off-campus research this year, but in the past it was 26%. The rate of 32% represents a favorable compromise. I can provide you a copy of this complete MOU if you would like to see it.

The division of labor between on-campus and off-campus construction splits between fabrication (on-campus) and installation and commissioning (off-campus). The boundary between these two activities is fluid, but in terms of the number of hours, I estimate that they are roughly 50-50 for the UConn construction project.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like to discuss any aspects of this request, please call me at 486-3512.

Richard T. Jones

Assoc. Prof. of Physics