

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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## SENATE APPROVES FUNDING FOR WSU, KU RESEARCH FACILITIES

Washington, DC -- The Senate gave final approval to funds for research facilities at Wichita State University and the University of Kansas after defeating an effort to delete so-called "earmarked" funds. The funds are contained in an urgent supplemental bill. Upon final passage, expected early this evening, the legislation will go to the President for his signature.

Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) successfully got the Senate to approve the funds late last year but the Defense Department refused to spend the monies. Dole then requested the funding be included in an urgent supplemental bill that required the Pentagon to release the funds.

Earlier this month, the Senate deleted the earmarked funds for WSU and KU, along with a handful of other universities, on the grounds that research funds should be approved in a peer-review process.

Sen. Dole, in urging the funds be restored, said, "The funds are for university facilities and equipment - they are not funds for research programs and activities. True research money is not the issue here. It does not take away previously appropriated funds which were to be awarded to universities through a competitive process."

"Without state-of-the-art facilities," said Sen. Dole, "universities cannot effectively compete for research funds. Until they possess such facilities, institutions will continue to be at a serious disadvantage in the competition for research funding and will be denied the opportunity of developing their fullest potential."

Sen. Dole said he supported funding the WSU and KU projects because they had "significant merit" and were "strongly supported" by the university communities.

Wichita State will receive \$5 million for construction of a new aviation institute and the University of Kansas will receive \$2 million for neurotoxin research facilities.