Darfur through the Eyes of Its Smallest Witnesses

I

n the war-ravaged region of Darfur, in western Sudan, hun-
dreds of thousands have died and close to three million have
been displaced since the conflict between the government and
its allied Janjaweed militias and the non-Arab population began
three years ago this month.

The United Nations Security Council is now seriously considering
a motion by the United States to send UN peacekeepers to Darfur.
Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW) and other nongovernmen-
tal organizations have been on the scene to provide assistance and
to document the atrocities taking place.

This month, the Center for Human Rights Documentation and
Research, part of Columbia’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library, is
exhibiting photographs of HRW’s collection of 27 drawings made by
children living in refugee camps on the border between Sudan and
Chad depicting their memories of the conflict.

“The Sudan keeps denying its involvement in the conflict,” said Csaba Szilagyi, the human rights center’s curator, “but these drawings show regular military troops, tanks, armored person-
nel carriers, and bombs raining down on villages. They are visual testimonies to the atrocities that have been committed—and to the terror the children experienced.”

This traveling exhibition, part of the Center’s ongoing documentation of evidence and plagiarism in the scientiﬁc research, but failed to pass.

The amendment to provide salary protection for faculty members—also to peer-reviewed journals and the scientiﬁc research. The bulk of those cases occur in sci-
entific research, but Senate discussion revealed that the proposed policy applies not
to only to peer-reviewed journals and the sci-
cences, but also to misconduct as fabri-
cation of evidence and plagiarism in the humanities and social sciences.

Senators saw the ﬁrst public draft of the new policy it is now been dis-
cussing since it was included in the Senate and ad hoc
groups, with Executive Vice President for
Research David Hirsh and Vice President for
Research Operations Deborah Stiles, the new
policy’s principal author. The main theme
was to create a new policy on misconduct in
research, and to show the Senate’s support
for students as participants in its management.

At the plenary on Feb. 3, student caucus
chair Adam Michaels (Bus.) presented an
amendment, from Sen. Samuel Silverstein
(Ten., CUMC), warning of the pitfalls of infor-
amal preliminary mediation efforts in cases of
research misconduct, was opposed by VP
Hirsh, who argued that forbidding mediation
would result in a ﬂood of formal complaints.

The amendment was defeated 15–27, with
three abstentions. VP Hirsh accepted another
amendment—to add an ofﬁcer of the libraries to the policy’s standing committee—
as friendly.

Sen. Sharyn O’Halloran (Ten., SIPA) moved
to table the amended policy. argued that fac-
ulty objections to students on committees
overseeing research might lead the Trustees
to veto the policy; but there was no second. The amended policy was then adopted with
out dissent.

In other action, the Senate unanimously
adopted a resolution from the Libraries
Committee calling attention to a shortage of
study space, despite the Libraries’ successful
efforts to provide 1,000 additional seats in
recent years. The resolution called for a
report on the subject from relevant adminis-
trators at a subsequent Senate meeting.

For information about the Senate, includ-
ing documents distributed for plenary meet-
ings, go to: www.columbia.edu/cu/senate.

Senate Approves New Research Misconduct Policy

By Thomas M. Mathewson

I

n its ﬁrst signiﬁcant action of the

2005–2006 session, the University

Senate amended, then adopted, a new

institutional policy on misconduct in

research.

The new policy extends the reach of
guidelines in effect at the medical campus
since the early 1990s across the whole uni-
versity. It also brings Columbia current with
federal regulations governing falsification,
fabrication and plagiarism in funded
research. The bulk of those cases occur in sci-
ten dollar bill for higher education, which speci-
ﬁed a number of reduc-
tions in student loans, as well as increases in stu-
dent loan interest rates.

President Bush has also proposed to eliminate or
signiﬁcantly reduce several

key student aid pro-
grams: Perkins Loans (cap-
itual contributions and loan
cancellations), GEAR UP, TRIO and LEAP.

Congress now begins
work on its annual Budget
Resolution, setting broad
parameters for all agencies
and targets for the annual
funding or appropriations
committees.

The Department of
Government and Commu-

nity Affairs, under the

leadership of Assistant

Secretary Michael N. Griffith, plans to conduct a
student trip to Washington
some time this spring, to
lobby legislators on key
budget measures affecting the
University.

NSF funding goes up by
7.9 percent, to $6.02 bil-
lion. Although Department of
Defense science and technology accounts decrease by 14.4 percent after six years of gains, increases for some
fundamental and applied research components are
included: The National Aeronautics and
Space Administration (NASA) increases by 1.5 percent.

The proposed budget
for the National Institutes
of Health (NIH) remains
flat at $28.6 billion for the
second year. The National
Ocean and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA) falls
by $8.8 million in the
extramural areas.

The proposed budget for
fiscal year 2007 (Oct.1,
2006–Sept. 30, 2007). Overall funding for research and development
increases by 3 percent, to
$137.2 billion. Funding
for basic research rises by 1
percent, with the American
Corporation for the Advancement of
Vive la France (ACG) as the centerpiece.

Agencies targeted for
major increases include the
National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy Office of Science and the
National Institutes of
Health (NIH).

The new policy is intended to
result in a flood of formal complaints.

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Pros & Cons of the 2007
Federal Budget

By Ellen S. Smith

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billion budget to Congress for fiscal year
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