2007-2008 Research, Vice Chancellor

Mission

The mission of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research is to develop and expand innovative research programs that align well with the institutional mission and strategic plan, address important national and global needs, and through technology transfer and commercialization noticeably support the economic development of Indiana and the nation.

Goals and Objectives

1. RESEARCH EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION Goal: Enhance communication between the Research and Sponsored Programs Office and the IUPUI campus community and increase research education for IUPUI investigators.

Objective: Advertise internal and external funding opportunities, disseminate time sensitive information about grant and contract submission and award procedures, and changes in policy and regulations affecting research activity. Strengthen the educational programs on grantmanship and the responsible conduct of research.

Campus Planning Theme: Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit:
Time Frame:

Actions taken for 2007-2008:

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research maintained the RESEARCH ENTERPRISE e-newsletter. The RESEARCH ENTERPRISE served as the primary mode of communication from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to the IUPUI research community. The RESEARCH ENTERPRISE was published monthly, featuring time sensitive research information and links to information on grants and contracts, funding opportunities, research compliance, and research centers.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research continued proactive efforts to inform faculty of research and sponsored program opportunities that ultimately impact the research enterprise on the IUPUI campus. One mechanism for distributing this information was via Research Notices sent regularly both directly to appropriate faculty and/or associate deans for research for further distribution.

Evidence of Progress for 2007-2008:

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research increased the RESEARCH ENTERPRISE subscription by approximately 10% in FY 2007-08.

There were approximately 715 Research Notices distributed in FY 2007-08, which was 58% more than the number of external funding notices distributed in FY 2006-07.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research conducted a series of 4-5 Finding Funding and Community of Science/Scholars workshops and open lab sessions to link IUPUI faculty, staff and graduate students to research and sponsored program funding. There were a total of 51 attendees at these workshops. Two faculty members led and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research sponsored proposal development workshops were presented, targeting both those in both the hard sciences, social sciences and the arts/humanities. In addition, OVCR staff members were invited to present funding search and proposal development workshops to faculty staff and graduate students at the Schools of Business, Dentistry, Liberal Arts, Medicine, Science, Engineering and Technology and the Herron School of Art and Design. Approximately 50 faculty, staff and graduate students were in attendance.
Activities planned for 2008-2009:

- Work with the IUPUI webmaster to revise the entire Research website to conform to the IUPUI award-winning web presence and comply with user-friendly web standards. A significant part of the website revision deals with linking the IUPUI community and beyond to resources, services, expertise, and opportunities needed to enhance IUPUI research development effort.
- Begin working with the IUPUI webmaster to revise the entire Center for Research and Learning website to conform to the IUPUI award-winning web presence and comply with user-friendly web standards.
- Increase the number of subscribers to the RESEARCH ENTERPRISE by at least 5%.
- Serve as a source for the IUPUI faculty and administration regarding facts and information on grants and contracts on the IUPUI campus.
- Revise the RESEARCH ENTERPRISE to incorporate a much more appealing look (layout) and the use of standard feature stories and articles that exemplify the research work and activities that are taking place on the IUPUI campus.
- Increase efforts to push research and sponsored programs funding information out to the IUPUI academic community via RESEARCH ENTERPRISE and ongoing Research Notices.
- Continue to work with the Office of External Affairs to shape the research content for future issues of the IUPUI Alumni magazine.
- Develop a new Research Magazine for the IUPUI campus that showcases research accomplishments from both the professional and nonprofessional schools at IUPUI, to ensuring greater awareness of the research that is being conducted on this campus and its impact at the regional, state, national, and international levels.

2. RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT Goal: Facilitate growth of research on the IUPUI campus in all scientific areas, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary scientific collaboration in the area of the Health and Life Sciences, in order to move toward fulfilling the campus goal of doubling research.

Objective: The objectives were to stimulate research in new areas, support investigators with bridge funding between grant periods, encourage interdisciplinary research collaborations, and distribute internal funding in a way that increases the probability that IUPUI investigators will subsequently secure external funding.

Campus Planning Theme: Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

Secondary Goals:

Sub Unit:

Time Frame:

Actions taken for 2007-2008:

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research co-sponsored, and financially subsidized, the annual GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP with the School of Medicine. This workshop is appropriate for all faculty members who are contemplating a competitive application to federal or state agencies or foundations in either basic science or clinical research. The workshop emphasizes idea development, how to write for grant reviewers, and tips and strategies for great grantsmanship.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research worked with IUB to expand the current database of limited submission grant opportunities and developed a more systematic approach for disseminating information on limited submission grant opportunities.

Data was gathered on existing IUPUI centers and institutes including duration of existence, mission, and sources of funding. The goal of this effort was to generate an information base that can be used to assess the strength of existing centers, ultimately to promote the development, operation, and management of strong, sustainable IUPUI centers and institutes.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research assisted Executive Vice Chancellor Sukhatme in the development and implementation of the Signature Center Initiative. Jan Froehlich, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, enlisted the help of two committees to evaluate and rank the applications for both Signature Center status and Signature Center Funding. The two committees chosen were the IUPUI Research Committee, chaired by Simon Atkinson, and the Council of Associate Deans for Research, chaired by Jan Froehlich. Criteria were developed for evaluation of proposals and three categories of proposals will be assessed separately: new research teams seeking funding under the Signature Center Initiative; existing centers seeking funding under the Signature Center initiative; existing centers seeking Signature Center status but no funding.
The Advanced Study Institute at IUB was revised to support inclusion of IUPUI faculty on the Board of Directors and in the activities of the Institute.

The History of Medicine Center at IUB was revised to support inclusion of an IUPUI faculty member (William Schneider) as Co-Director of the Center and to increase involvement of IUPUI faculty in activities of the Center.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research directed the accreditation review and site visit from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Program (AAHRPP) and received notice of accreditation (2008-2009) from this organization in June 2008. Less than 40 organizations in the United States have received accreditation from the AAHRPP.

Collaborations between IUPUI and neighboring institutions via new funding mechanisms such as the new Intercampus Applied Research Program that is jointly funded by IUPUI and Purdue University helped to strengthen research. Several existing programs, such as the Advanced Study Institute (ASI) and the History of Medicine Center, have been revised, with new financial support from both IUPUI and IUB, to include faculty on both the IUPUI and IUB campuses and to stimulate intercampus research/scholarly activity collaborations. Several new research groups have been formed, such as the Energy Frontiers Research Group and the Environmental Science and Energy Research Group, which are supported by the Research Offices on both the IUPUI and IUB campuses in order to facilitate intercampus research collaborations.

The Interim Vice Chancellor for Research assisted with the transfer and movement of oversight of grants and contracts and compliance from the IUPUI Research Office to the Office of the Vice President for Research Administration (OVPR).

The Interim Vice Chancellor for Research assisted with the establishment of the new IU Research Compliance Office.

Evidence of Progress for 2007-2008:

- The Research Support Funds Grant (RSFG) mechanism attracted 110 proposals and $1,348,545 was awarded to 40 projects, 88% of which was health or life-science related.
- The International Development Fund mechanism attracted 23 proposals and $128,062 was awarded to 13 projects, 69% of which was health or life-sciences related.
- The Research Venture Award mechanism attracted 5 proposals and $91,080 was awarded to 4 projects, 50% of which was health or life-sciences related.
- The new Intercampus Applied Research Program mechanism attracted 21 proposals and $118,843 was awarded to 5 projects, 60% of which was health or life-sciences related. This mechanism is co-sponsored and supported by Purdue University-West Lafayette.
- The new Release Time for Research mechanism attracted 17 proposals and $119,632 was awarded to 6 projects, 50% of which was health or life-sciences related.
- COS serves as Indiana University’s primary research funding and expertise search tool. We have been instrumental in promoting its use on the IUPUI campus by training IUPUI faculty on how to navigate the system. The number of IUPUI investigators using COS has increased progressively over the past 4 years: 1645 users in 2004; 1872 users in 2005; 2067 users in 2006; and 2195 users in 2007.

Activities planned for 2008-2009:

- Continue to co-sponsor and financially subsidize the annual GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP with the School of Medicine, which is normally held in the fall. This workshop is appropriate for all faculty members who are contemplating a competitive application to federal or state agencies or foundations in either basic science of clinical research. The workshop emphasizes idea development, how to write for grant reviewers, and tips and strategies for great grantsmanship.
- Increase the number of proposal development workshops sponsored and presented by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research by 30%.
- Increase the number of department level workshops implemented by 10%.
- Increase the number of Finding Funding and Community of Science workshops sponsored and presented by the Office of...
Fiscal Health

The accounts in the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research are managed and monitored by the Vice Chancellor for Research and the fiscal officer located in the Office of Academic Affairs via the FIS standard budget and accounting system. Accurate and timely reporting ensures the fiscal health of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and supports decision making and planning processes. All institutional financial policies and accounting practices are followed.

Reallocation Plan
Other Question(s)

1. If you had to implement a budget reduction of 3-5% in your base general fund budget, a) what would be your budget priorities and b) what strategies would you employ to walk the fine line of maintaining critical operations and investing in your future? Please describe how faculty and other stakeholders will be involved in the decision making process.

If there was a reduction in the base general fund budget associated with my Office of the Vice Chancellor (OVCR), my budget priorities would be to minimize the impact on the services provided by my office in support of the research enterprise on the IUPUI campus. To achieve this goal, and in consultation with various stakeholders, my strategy will be to make use of the reserve funds associated with my office.

2. Please describe current commitments or plans that require multiple year funding, including the amount of funding required and the length of time the initiative’s funding is required.

The current commitments or plans that require multiple year funding relate to the internal grant programs. The Research Venture Award (RVA) is on the base budget and has been used to create two new funding initiatives, Release Time for Research (RTR) in the amount of $150,000, and Intercampus Applied Research Program (IARP) in the amount of $150,000. The IARP will not be continued, due to the CTSI program and possible duplication of focus. Therefore, these funds will likely be directed to other initiatives (e.g. grant-in-aid programs for minorities and women). Moreover, RTR is expected to be expanded to promote increased faculty research activity by providing funds for course buyouts. Furthermore, a new initiative that focuses on increased support for doctoral students on the IUPUI campus will be a key area of focus for my research office.

The amount of Research Investment Fund (RIF) available for use by my office is based on the ICR associated with the IUPUI grants and contracts from the previous year. The RIF-supported Research Support Fund Grant (RSFG) program, currently at $1.35M, is the primary internal funding mechanism that supports the re-investment of funds to generate more external funding. Funds for this mechanism are an ongoing commitment. A small allocation of RIF is also used to advance the international mission and goals of this campus through the International Development Fund grant ($75,000). Moreover, there is $750,000 allocated from RIF to be returned back to the schools based on the amount of ICR brought in by that school. Plans are underway to redirect this $750,000 to more targeted research initiatives that would have a greater impact on the ROI with external grants and contracts for research and scholarly work. In addition, RIF is used to fulfill a ten year commitment of $2.5M per year to support research infrastructure development associated with the School of Medicine. Finally, $125,000 from RIF is allocated to support the OVCR.

3. How do you intend to use your reserves over the next four years? Please provide the information by fiscal year.

As indicated in the response to question 1, if there was a reduction in the base general fund budget associated with OVCR, the reserve funds will be used to minimize the impact on the services provided by the office in support of the research enterprise on the IUPUI campus.

4. How do you define return on investment for diversity efforts in your unit (e.g., numbers of faculty/staff/students recruited and retained, grants received for special studies, new teaching methods or courses, placement of graduates, program reputation)? What are you doing to improve your ROI?

ROI in the OVCR is defined by the number initiatives and programs that have been
developed and implemented to increase the number of underrepresented minorities and women faculty involved in the responsible conduct of research and submitting/receiving external grants. After careful review of past programs, the OVCR is considering reinstituting grant-in-aid programs to offer small internal seed grants ($3000-$5000) for research and scholarly activities that will result in submission of grant proposals and external funding.