

Faculty Research Committee Report 08/29/2011

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Our mission has been to identify problems and suggest solutions to the research mission of the University. We are advisory to the Vice Chancellor of Research. Prior suggestions have included institution of Bridge funding for faculty between grants, discussion of in-house sabbaticals to foster interdisciplinary exchange and suggestions for the new Web design constructed by Andy Johns.

For 2010-2011 our discussions centered on mechanisms to formalize in-house grant panels. We need to be proactive in enhancing our competitive edge in a climate of reduced grant opportunities. While many units have been doing more or less formal in-house reviews, there was enthusiasm for formalizing this across campus, especially as the interdisciplinary nature of our enterprise expands. We met with Dr. Sohini Sengupta, a Research Coordinator in the Center for Faculty Excellence, who was discussing this idea with other offices and units on campus. The CFE is willing to collaborate. Subsequent steps to implement this idea were discussed.

Looking forward, we have discussed our mission with the new Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Barbara Entwistle. A productive use of our expertise could be advisory to the Chancellor. There are new issues and initiatives on the table that we may be able to provide assistance, advice and importantly perspective from the research side of the University. Our committee supports a more focused mission.

Examples of Agenda Items:

Funding opportunities from industry: educate industry as to our expertise. Allow industry interactions to be considered for tenure.

Build bridges to business school. Liaisons could be built between Business and A&S

Innovation Initiatives: How can we harness critical thinking from the liberal arts into innovative initiatives between industry and academia? The current model has been historically a physical science/ public health enterprise. Can we engage the liberal arts, social sciences and humanities in this enterprise in novel ways?