

Goal 2: Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

B. Provide support for scholarly activity and external funding

Promote interdisciplinary research

The first step is to increase faculty awareness of ongoing research in many departments. (i) Faculty reception with lecture; (ii) faculty dinners (charge meals) with lecture, once a semester; (iii) provost meetings with perhaps two different departments at one time (overview of the department, what is exciting in that discipline, future plans); (iv) presentations from Deans at council meetings.

Committee: Jan Froehlich, Dominique Galli, John Krauss, Greg Lindsey, Sherry Queener, Bill Schneider, Bob Sandy [chair].

Current Status:

- IUPUI's Mission Statement includes as a core value providing for its constituents excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activity characterized by collaboration within and across disciplines. Moreover, its Statement of Values describes IUPUI as a "leader in fostering collaborative relationships."
- Many IUPUI investigators don't post in databases such as COS (community of science), which serves as a tool to identify collaborators. Departmental websites are often not up to date, thus making it difficult to identify collaborators.
- The physical/geographical separation of disciplines does not encourage interaction.
- Currently there are only few venues at the campus level that allow researchers to interact with each other:
 - The new Health Information and Translational Sciences building places researchers with backgrounds in health services research, bioinformatics, biostatistics, bioethics, molecular genetics, pediatrics, bio-computing, and statistics in close proximity.
 - In spring of 2007 the Cutting Edge lecture series was launched. Top IUPUI professors engage the campus and local community in discussions about rapidly changing fields of inquiry.
 - The signature center initiative in 2006/07 aims at promoting interdisciplinary research.
- The current structure of the P&T system focuses strongly on individual accomplishments.
- Research and Sponsored Programs has a new policy for the sharing of indirect cost recovery funds across schools that will reduce barriers to interdisciplinary research.

Recommendations/suggestions:

- Require Faculty Annual Reports (FARs) to be electronic, follow a common format, and be searchable for recent publications and research interests.
- Create a campus-level database of sharable equipment and tissue/culture repositories that could open up opportunities for collaboration.
- Take advantage of individual school's research days to invite faculty from other schools.
- Pair new scholars with senior investigators in a mentored scientific environment across disciplines.
- Grant graduate degrees that are interdisciplinary in nature and require research to be performed under the supervision of two or more mentors.
- Provide campus/school funding for interdisciplinary graduate and postdoctoral training grants.
- Develop procedures for interdisciplinary hires.
- Modify the P&T guidelines to allow for a fair review of interdisciplinary research and research outcomes.
- Financially support sabbatical leave projects that aim at interdisciplinary training.
- Create the position of grant facilitator to match up faculty to respond to new funding opportunities and to provide administrative overview for large multidisciplinary grant applications (see Action Item Report on Grant Facilitators).
- Provide access to a daily calendar that announces colloquia across campus.

Implementation:

In Progress

- A Scholarship at Lunch Time (SALT) series organized by the Faculty Club will start in Fall of 2007. Center directors will present their interdisciplinary work on a monthly base in an interactive manner.
- The IU School of Medicine recently organized a full day Research Retreat that was attended by bench and clinical researchers from various schools. The retreat is expected to become an annual event.
- The creation of an IU-wide common electronic format for FARs is under way.

- The Office of the VC for Research is currently being restructured. Its new focus will be on research development.