

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

C. Enhance infrastructure for research and creative activities

Space planning

Central help to units to identify suitable office and laboratory space is necessary. Planning for future expansion is essential.

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Current status

- A useful status report, including an assessment of IUPUI's research space needs, was developed in 2004 by a Research Space Task Force established by the Vice President for Research and the University Architect.
- IUPUI has an immediate need for an additional 700,000 assignable sq. ft., a very grave situation and a significant impediment to our reaching our full potential as a research university. Research and creative space, whether for wet laboratories, animal care facilities, art and music studios, or simply faculty office space, is in short supply.
- The support received from the State and Legislature for new construction over many years is appreciated. Law, Art, Informatics, and Medicine have major new buildings. But these have not completely obviated even those schools' current needs and other schools are in even worse situations. The need for more space stems not from any weakness at IUPUI, but instead from its successful effort to become a more research-oriented campus.
- Lack of space hurts the campus in terms of prestige, research dollars, and potential faculty and program additions, and in terms of vision and planning; many units keep quiet about ideas for expanding research, knowing there is little hope of acquiring the space to realize them. This is a very dangerous condition in the current highly competitive research climate.

Recommendations

- The University and the State should join with the faculty and the deans in making research space a top priority in the coming years. The State and the business community must be fully informed about the seriousness of the space problem and its effect on attempts to build a meaningful "knowledge-based" economy in Indiana. Research space must be viewed as an investment in the future. Several other states have attacked the problem aggressively via multi-billion dollar academic space bonds for use by their public universities.
- IUPUI could consider self-funding some research space, perhaps developing flexible buildings using grant income, gift money or State funds. One possibility is to construct building "shells" and expect occupants to build out the interiors.
- IUPUI must work to create the bonding authority needed to self-fund construction and renovation of space, without waiting for State biennial processes. This goal should be achievable, given that bond ratings for IU and the State are among the nation's best, and that existing bonding debt will decline significantly in the near future as old issues are paid off.
- Space needs should be given a much higher priority in future fundraising campaigns, which have often focused primarily on faculty chairs and student fellowships.
- Continuing work on a Master Space Plan is essential.

Implementation

- Space issues should be stressed by the new IU administration.

(Revised August 9, 2007)