INTRODUCTION

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) created the OUS Research Council in 2005 and charged the Council with advising the Board on research issues and investments within Oregon. In service to that charge, the Council recommends the following priorities for consideration by the Academic Strategies Committee (ASC).

The Council recognizes the breadth of challenges resulting from diminished state support and the affect of this disinvestment on all aspects of postsecondary education. In response to these challenges, the Council offers its support and assistance to initiatives that promote a strong foundation for Oregon public higher education. The initiatives included in this recommendation build on existing excellence within OUS and may call for specific investments in faculty, programs, or facilities. These investments are not meant to diminish other critical needs within the system and are offered in a spirit of cooperation, not competition with university and system priorities.

The foundation of university research relies on an ability to recruit and retain internationally recognized faculty, to attract productive graduate students, and to provide topnotch facilities. Each of these components is essential to a successful research enterprise. To that end, the Research Council strongly supports the graduate education agenda identified by the OUS Provosts’ Council. Graduate students are not only a tangible product and legacy of outstanding research projects: they are also essential ingredients to the workforce, needed to conduct research needed by many businesses and industries. The Council supports a systemic approach to strengthening faculty recruitment and retention. This requires competitive salary, facilities, equipment and infrastructure investments, as well as the presence of productive graduate students.

STRENGTHENING THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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<th>Essential Components</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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| Faculty              | 1. Support system policies and initiatives to improve faculty diversity, recruitment, and retention across all disciplines  
2. Promote recruitment and retention efforts in target areas of existing excellence  
3. Develop a Competitive Eminent Scholar Program |
| Graduate Students    | 1. Support the graduate education agenda identified by the OUS Provosts’ Council  
2. Increase fellowships in areas of targeted growth such as signature research initiatives and other interdisciplinary and interinstitutional programs  
3. Support efforts to increase diversity among the graduate student population |
| Facilities & Infrastructure | 1. Create shared facilities projects to maximize system resources and to stay competitive.  
2. Establish matching grant programs to leverage investments and improve competitiveness for federal dollars.  
3. Support the Life Sciences Collaborative Building with OHSU and the Sustainability Center efforts approved by the 2009 Legislature |
SYNOPSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary objectives of these recommendations are to (1) maintain and build Oregon’s competitiveness for research funding and (2) to enhance its broader impacts and societal benefits. These objectives are achieved through a combination of strategic initiatives and associated partnerships that enhance Oregon’s research infrastructure and attract additional investments from non-state sources. Many of the priorities identified in this proposal are moving forward in varying degrees already because initial organizing activities require little funding. The recommended investments aim to maximize the impact and effectiveness of these efforts.

At the request of the ASC, the Council discussed these recommendations under three possible scenarios: actions possible without funding adjustments, actions possible through reallocation, and actions requiring new funding. A “best practices” assessment is standard procedure for each initiative. The Research Council Proposed Policy Option Package for the 2009-2011 Biennium was a starting point for these recommendations; however, work is on going with faculty to identify core shared needs and focused target opportunities.

A. Strategic Partnerships

Promote intercampus and interdisciplinary collaborations and centers supporting Oregon’s competitiveness in addressing critical state and national research priorities. Current priority areas focus on sustainability and complement the Oregon Sustainability Center and the Board’s Sustainability Initiative. They include:

a. Sustainability Research Initiative (natural resources, climate change, water resources, and sustainable mobility)

b. Consolidated Energy Research

B. Research Infrastructure Enhancements

Develop shared facilities projects and associated matching grant programs that foster research excellence. Current priority areas include:

a. OUS Proteomics Consortium – shared biotechnology instrumentation facilities

b. High Performance Computing – research applications and electronic research administration

c. Life Sciences Collaborative Building – colocate productive researchers

C. Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Expand undergraduate research opportunities at public and private institutions in Oregon by creating an “Undergraduate Research Leadership Award.”

D. Research Impact

Improve research assessment and communication strategies.

a. Enhance metrics, outcomes, and goals for research and technology transfer activities

b. Employ multi-media assets, electronic databases and web-based portals on research and innovation

Total Funding Request $10 - $15 million
### Research Council Priority Areas and Potential Actions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Priority Areas</th>
<th>No Funding Adjustments</th>
<th>Reallocation Strategies</th>
<th>New Funding Opportunities</th>
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| Sustainability Research Initiative (INR, OTREC, OCCRI, OWI) | Encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary and interinstitutional communication and collaboration in targeted areas | 1) Support shared administrative support services  
a) office management  
b) grant writing  
c) grants and contracts administration  
d) IT and web services  
e) communication and outreach | 1) Create research seed funds  
2) Develop research roadmaps to leverage additional funds  
3) Improve data management and access  
4) Provide technical assistance to federal, state, and local government |
| Consolidated Energy Research                        | Encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary, interinstitutional and regional communication | Establish and support a statewide working group to prepare the state and region to be competitive in expected federal grant programs | Create research seed funds and develop research roadmap to leverage additional funds      |
| Matching Grants                                     |                                                                                       | Maximize existing funds provided by university, private foundations, and federal sources | Establish a general pool of state matching dollars to increase OUS competitiveness for federal grants |
| Proteomics Consortium                               | Establish operating agreements for participating campuses and enhance communication strategy | 1) Provide seed money to build faculty participation and partnering  
2) Support Interim Director and core technical staff | 1) Recruit Director  
2) Hire administrative personnel  
3) Further build-out core facilities  
4) Purchase or upgrade instrumentation  
5) Recruit new faculty |
| High Performance Research Computing (HPRC)          | Facilitate a HPRC working group to inventory opportunities and needs                     | Redirect research administration and line-item research incentive funds                  | Build and support required infrastructure (servers, network connectivity, etc.) to provide improved computational ability and data storage capacity |
| Undergraduate Research                              | Promote an expectation of student engagement in research at every Oregon university       | Provide funds to support undergraduate research                                         | Establish and fund a “Undergraduate Research Leadership Award”                           |
| Research Assessment                                 | Collaborate with the Chancellor’s Office to identify, develop, and report research metrics, outcomes, and goals | Develop a research-specific performance report using campus and system resources and staff |                                                                                          |
| Communication Strategies                            | Continue supporting the limited Oregon Innovation Portal (OIP) phase I                    | Maximize OIP investment and continue to grow as opportunity allows                      | Expand OIP to provide “one stop shop” by bringing together information on ongoing research, grants, and opportunities for interaction in one place |