INTRODUCTION

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) created the OUS Research Council in 2005 and charged the Council with advising the Board and Chancellor 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 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.

SYNOPSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council’s recommendations clearly support the Board’s goals of “creating knowledge and advancing innovation” and “contributing to the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of Oregon and its communities." OUS research provides an excellent return on investment – often leveraging a 5-to-1 return on state dollars and creating approximately 32 jobs per $1 million invested. These recommendations aim to (1) maintain and build Oregon’s competitiveness for research funding and (2) to enhance its broader impacts and societal benefits. The 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. The success of these recommendations can be measured by increased federal and private investments in targeted areas and improved efficiencies in the administration and use of core facilities.

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.

A. Strategic Partnerships........................................................................................................$4.425 million

Promote intercampus and interdisciplinary collaborations and centers supporting Oregon’s competitiveness in addressing critical state and national research priorities and Oregon’s competitive advantages around Sustainability Research (natural resources, climate change, water resources, renewable energy, and sustainable mobility)
B. **Core Facilities** .......................................................... $3.5 million
   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. **Undergraduate Research Fellowships** .................................. $1.0 million
   Expand undergraduate research opportunities at public and private institutions in Oregon by creating an “Undergraduate Research Leadership Award.”

**Total Funding Request** .......................................................... $8.925 million
# Research Council Priority Areas and Potential Actions

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<th>Priority Areas</th>
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| Sustainability Research Initiative (INR, OTREC, OCCRI, Water, Renewable Energy) | Encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary and interinstitutional communication and collaboration in targeted areas | Reallocate existing positions and/or resources to support proposal writing and development for large multi-campus interdisciplinary research proposals | 1) Core Support and Space ($400,000)  
2) Research Seed Funds ($2.35 million)  
3) Data Management and Access ($1.125 million)  
4) Technical Assistance: Connecting Science to Policy Making ($525,000)  
Total Request: $ 4.425 million |
| Core Facilities (Proteomics & HPRC)         | Establish operating agreement and enhance communication strategies among campuses     | Maximize existing resources provided by university, private foundations, and federal sources | 1) Administrative and Technical Staff ($1.4 million)  
2) Core Facilities Upgrades ($200,000)  
3) Instrumentation ($800,000)  
4) Matching Grants ($1 million)  
Total Request: $3.5 million |
| 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”  
Total Request: $1.0 million |