

OUS RESEARCH COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE OSBHE ACADEMIC STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

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

Essential Components	Strategies
Faculty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Priority Areas	No Funding Adjustments	Reallocation Strategies	New Funding Opportunities
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