CRPDE – Progress and Future Initiatives

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Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment

2nd Annual Conversation on the State of Norman Campus Research
September 22, 2011
Are we true to our mission?

The mission of the Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment is to assist in the development of strong and competitive programs for research, scholarship and creative activities across the University of Oklahoma by supporting faculty and students in these efforts.
What did we accomplish this year?

• Established CRPDE as the resource center where faculty and graduate students can seek assistance with all things research related.
• Coordinated the development of several significant proposals, including the Climate Science Center, the NSF IGERT, NSF MRIs, etc.
• Met with a significant number of faculty on the Norman and Tulsa campuses
• Conducted many limited submission competitions
• Worked to organize and implement several new internal programs, including Research Liaisons, Challenge Grant Program, DSI, and Potentially Transformative Research
• Offered many workshops and “reality check” meetings
• Are in the process of revamping and enhancing the CRPDE website
## Internal Initiatives

- Research Council
- Faculty Challenge Grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Letters of Intent Submitted (N=92)</th>
<th>Proposals Received and Reviewed (N = 62)</th>
<th>Awards (N = 14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atmospheric &amp; Geographic Sciences</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael F. Price College of Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe C. and Carole Kerr McClendon Honors College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
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Where could we improve?

- Connect with and provide assistance to all disciplines/colleges/schools at the same level
- Offer broader help to Arts and Humanities scholars pursuing fellowships
- Offer more workshops and training opportunities
- Connect faculty with one another, within OU and outside of OU
- Work with more graduate students
- Provide more individualized invitations to pursue funding opportunities
- Provide more individualized searches for funding opportunities
- Invite agency and foundation program officers to OU
Adding to CRPDE Staff!

New Associate Directors:

Nancy Devino (Tulsa)

Todd Fuller (Norman)

Center Administrator: Cindy Clark

Interdisciplinary Research Consultant/Graduate Assistant: Quyen Arana
Why did we add to CRPDE staff?

• Turns out, this isn’t me =>
• Large initiatives, new programs, increased expectations for faculty, wonderful response to CRPDE, multiple challenges
• We want to provide better service, more quickly, and have greater impact
• This isn’t me either =>
How do we spend our time?

- Communicating information about research at OU out to the faculty and students.
- Consulting, giving advice, and answering questions about a large number of topics concerning research, funding, and resources.
- Reading, editing, and commenting on internal and external funding proposals.
- Planning and giving workshops and other training sessions.
- Searching for funding opportunities for faculty and students.
- Interpreting internal and external funding guidelines and solicitations for funding.
- Working with the VPR, his advisory committee, the Research Liaisons, the Research Council, the Research Cabinet, Office of Research Services, etc.
Did you know that CRPDE will...

- Read your proposals for funding and give you substantive comments?
- Read and comment on proposals for internal funding, to your college, to the Research Council, etc.?
- Provide assistance through the development of your individual OR large collaborative proposal?
- Search for funding opportunities and teach you how to search for them effectively on your own?
- Help faculty, postdocs AND graduate students with pursuit of funding?
- Help you think creatively about so many things related to research, scholarship and creative activity?
What are we working on this year?

• Improve communications concerning research
• Improve processes affecting research
• With new investments (PTR, USO, CGP) there is opportunity to build new programs, refine ideas and seek new funding
• Help broker more connections
• Facilitate and support new and existing collaborations
• Bring program officers and outside speakers to OU
• Provide more training opportunities and workshops, especially regarding tools that will facilitate your pursuit of funding
• Prioritize time and resources to watch and understand changes in Washington
• Explore and direct initiatives that benefit the research community at large (e.g., broader impacts; building collaborations)
• Helping faculty and students develop and pitch their innovative research questions
• Connecting colleagues and following up with those new connections
• Learning to pitch the right ideas to the right audience.

Never try to sell a meteor to a Dinosaur. It wastes your time and annoys the Dinosaur.

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Social/Behavioral Sciences and Education

- Many funding opportunities are available for social/behavioral science faculty and education faculty
- **What’s the problem?** These opportunities are often inter- and multidisciplinary with fields outside of social/behavioral sciences and/or education
- **Continuing challenge** – framing the research questions to allow all perspectives to contribute intellectually
- **Continuing challenge** – helping all collaborators see that their contributions are real and that they can produce scholarship
- **Continuing challenge** – helping lower frustration and see the benefits of collaboration
- **What’s the solution?** – there are many but we need to learn who is interested in collaborating and what their contributions would be
Interesting Initiatives

• Sustainability
• Broader Impacts Clearinghouse
• Establishing Grant Writing Workshops for Graduate Students – Fall, 2012
• Info for all Researchers – Website redevelopment
• Federal Agencies – Basics Workshops
• Other Workshops
FY 2012 Research and Development Challenges

- Promoting sustainable economic growth and job creation
- Defeating the most dangerous diseases and achieving better health outcomes for all while reducing health care costs
- Moving toward a clean energy future to reduce dependence on energy imports while curbing greenhouse gas emissions
- Understanding, adapting to, and mitigating the impacts of global climate change
- Managing the competing demands on land, fresh water, and the oceans for the production of food, fiber, biofuels, and ecosystem services based on sustainability and biodiversity
- Developing the technologies to protect our troops, citizens, and national interests
- Addressing these challenges will require strengthening our efforts in six cross-cutting areas:
  - STEM education and advanced learning technologies at every level
  - Sustained support for fundamental research at our research universities and national and private laboratories
  - Infrastructures for information and communication, transportation, and energy;
  - High-impact collaborations with researchers, the private sector, universities and other institutions of higher learning, civil society, and international partners to achieve U.S. foreign policy, global health, energy, climate change, and global development objectives;
  - Capabilities in space
  - An economic and policy environment that promotes and rewards research, entrepreneurship, and innovation.