

Strategic Plan: Urban Research University Transition

Attaining a More Defined Urban Research University Profile for YSU

YSU has made the following progress on selected Urban Research initiatives:

1. *Provide Technical Support for Grant writing; Provide Training for Grant Management and Development*

YSU's Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs (OGSP)—which is responsible for assisting YSU faculty and staff in submitting grant proposals for external funding, and for accepting grant awards for research, service, and academic development—is providing and/or sponsoring the following grant support and training:

- **Assistance with Data Analysis:** Discussions have been initiated with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to identify ways to provide statistical expertise to principal investigators who need significant statistical analysis of data for grant submission and/or publication of results. Incentives for faculty/student participation in these activities are being considered.
- **Grant Workshops:** Recent and upcoming workshops include a series of presentations on grant development for new and experienced faculty and staff; workshops on focused and specialized topics; and presentations to department chairs, deans, and executive administrators.
- **RCR Training:** Information and training are being provided on the responsible conduct of research (RCR) and/or ethics:
 - The OGSP website provides links to information about compliance matters and sponsor requirements (e.g., the National Science Foundation).
 - YSU is implementing processes to provide appropriate RCR training and oversight to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by the NSF.
 - The OGSP is assisting in choosing an RCR training program. In spring 2011, the Academic Senate's Academic Research Committee discussed the RCR requirement and training. Under current consideration for purchase is the commercially available CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) Training Program, for faculty and staff to be certified. In addition, the College of STEM (with the Dale Ethics Center) offers a related workshop to its faculty and students.
- **Other Compliance Oversight:** The OGSP is providing oversight of other mandated compliance:
 - YSU must adhere to federal and state laws (compliance regulations) that require individual certifications on the responsible use of human and animal subjects in research.

- The Institutional Review Board (IRB) Committee though the OGSP recently completed an exhaustive revision of the IRB Manual—“Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects.” As a result, YSU applied for and received Federal Wide Assurance from the Department of Health and Human Services. This assurance permits YSU to receive federal grant/funding for research involving human subjects.

2. *Develop a Comprehensive Startup-Packages Policy*

This initiative is led by Dr. Peter Kasvinsky. An existing Academic Division policy/procedure enables college deans to access resources through the Institutional Research Incentive Fund. Requests for startup support are to be structured before a position request is forwarded to the Office of the Provost through the Associate Provost for Research. The basic thrust of the policy is for position requests to define the nature of the scholarly activities and specific areas of expertise to be sought in the search process and how that specific scholarly area fits with the mission and overall research/scholarship plan of the requesting department/college.

At an upcoming meeting, deans will discuss ways to simplify the process.

3. *Create Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Collaboration (e.g., “Community of Scholars”)*

The Faculty Development Committee is currently addressing the following items:

- Encourage regular meetings with those who are interested in or already engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Create a formal means such as *Quest*-like venues through which to recognize exemplary examples of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Establish a faculty colloquium lecture series.

In addition, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the College of Fine and Performing Arts and the College of STEM has resulted in the donation of a \$125,000 induction furnace by Ajax-Tocco housed in Bliss Hall. The equipment is part of a larger collaboration, titled *CoLab* (Cooperative Laboratory), which teams students in mechanical engineering and sculpture.

4. *Add/Implement Selected Graduate Programs*

This continuing initiative is coordinated by the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Proposed/new programs in development/implementation include:

- M.Ed. in Intervention Services and an Ed.S. in School Psychology—approved by the Chancellor; will be implemented
- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Communication—full proposal in process
- Master of Respiratory Care—approved by the Chancellor; implementation in process
- Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering—approved by the Chancellor and the Higher Learning Commission; implementation in process

5. *Develop Marketing and Recruitment Strategies for Graduate Students and Selected Undergraduates*

The team for this initiative was chaired by Jack Fahey and included several deans, two associate provosts, and staff from the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

- The team completed its report in early fall identifying best practices for graduate programs: [Module of Graduate School Best Practices pdf](#).
- Provost Khawaja has engaged Packer Thomas to study YSU's current practices. The report should be available in early December.

6. *Examine Admission Standards and Policies for Graduate Students*

Progress on this item is reported under the Student Success cornerstone.

7. *Advance Centers of Excellence to Prominence*

The following progress has been made in advancing centers of excellence to prominence:

- Ohio Chancellor Jim Petro named YSU's Center of Excellence in International Business an Ohio Center of Excellence on November 3, 2011. This is the third statewide center of excellence for YSU.
- Work conducted by the YSU centers of excellence in their respective domains is helping move them toward regional and national prominence. Work conducted through the centers is increasing recognition of the vital role YSU plays in regional and national growth.
- For example, YSU's Center of Excellence in Materials Science and Engineering is helping develop materials that provide better protection for U.S. soldiers. A 3-D Ballistics Testing Laboratory has been commissioned in Moser Hall for the testing of nanocomposite samples under real firing conditions. The system, custom-made for the research team, is unique in Ohio and one of very few available in academic research labs throughout the country. Funding for this effort came through a \$1.2M award from the Army Research Lab for research conducted in cooperation with Fireline TCON, Inc.

Other:

One additional Urban Research University initiative chosen to be addressed this year has yet to be implemented. It requires additional input from various constituencies at YSU and elsewhere. The initiative is listed below, with the name of the individual responsible for beginning to move the issue forward:

- Expand Undergraduate Research Opportunities: Dr. Jeff Coldren, Professor of Psychology