

## PROPOSED ACADEMIC RESEARCH PLAN

APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED BY UNIVERSITY SENATE (MAY 4 2015)



### Mission

In concert with the University Academic Plan, ESU's Research Mission is:

To create an institution of higher learning that engages in scholarship as recognized by PASSHE and the appropriate collective bargaining units; that generates knowledge and creativity that is inspired by the intellectual capital of its faculty and students; and that provides both undergraduate and graduate students the benefit of learning from scholarly activities at the University.

### Background

#### Vision

To be a model center of scholarship that is based on the teacher-scholar model, where faculty readily have access to financial, institutional and intellectual support to engage in the generation of knowledge and creativity, and in which students can learn and be inspired by the scholarship of their faculty.

#### Values

The ESU community of scholars is devoted to scholarship that is of high quality, rigorous, and reflective of excellence; contributes to the "greater good," is integral to the University – Community of scholars and is based on the highest level of integrity.

### Goals

Goal 1: Embrace high-quality research, scholarship, and creative activity as an integral part of ESU's mission.

- Include demonstrable research, scholarship, and/or creative activity potential as a preferred qualification in the hiring process.
- Promote research according to the accepted peer-reviewed standards, or other external validation, applicable to each discipline.
- Systematize opportunities to recognize and celebrate the achievement (publication and/or reception) of faculty having received external (of the university) grants, fellowships, and research-premised appointments to advisory, evaluator, or supervisory boards in their respective fields.

Goal 2: Support research, scholarship, and creative activity across ESU

#### Resources

- Support existing initiatives for developing research partnerships with faculty from other universities and with community partners, and work to expand these

when possible

- Obtain university-wide external funding to increase the visibility and support of research and creative endeavors of students, faculty, and professional staff.
- Sustain FDR Research Grants used to leverage larger external grants.
- Sustain FDR Mini Grants to complete smaller research projects.
- To the extent permitted by financial assets and enrollment numbers, create graduate assistantships and /or graduate workers to provide assistance to faculty initiating research agendas, and who otherwise would not have access to GA assistance, in addition to assistantships tied to a single department or program.
- Support the FDR process of increasing the number of principal investigators. This should include, when possible, reviving other funds such as the President's Research Fund, which are primarily, but not exclusively, aimed at tenured faculty, thus opening more FDR funds to junior faculty.

### Infrastructure

- Maintain regular and formal exchanges between the OSPR and the Provost's office to reinforce strategies that promote and support research, including but not limited to facilities.
- Review and rotate IRB and IACUC committee membership on a regular and consistent basis.
- Maintain at minimum existing research offices and support infrastructure to assist faculty in securing and executing state, regional, and national grants and contracts.
- Establish a coordinated pre- and post-award grant management structure through the Office of Sponsored Projects and Research.
- Establish a set of clear and concise research policies and procedures and budget guidelines mirroring those required of grant accountants. This should include a set of FAQs available on the website of OSPR.
- Establish access to a searchable grant database available to all faculty.

### Professional Development

- Institutionalize the peer-mentoring model for publications support.
- Ensure that all new faculty orientation programs include an in depth discussion of ESU's research program, and include a presentation from OSPR.
- Establish a series of workshops on research design, publishing and grant-writing.
- Establish an annual workshop to inform research participants of policies for IRB and IACUC compliance. All research training workshops should be digitally recorded and posted on OSPR website.
- Record, maintain, and annually update a brief and general module with information on research issues and specific procedural information about research at ESU and make it available for faculty to take at any time.

### Promotion

- Recognize, publicize, and reward the scholarly works and creative accomplishments of faculty and students.
- Create an effective, up-to-date, and user-friendly website that communicates to

the public the successful scholarly, research and creative activity occurring within the University.

- Through FDR and OSPR create internal programs to encourage interdisciplinary research initiatives and that build capacity for attainment of extramural funding.
- Support electronic repositories for research and scholarly activities through a collection of links to sites hosting academic work by faculty and professional staff.
- Work collaboratively with the Office of Sponsored projects (OSPR) Deans and chairs to build and strengthen identified interdisciplinary programs, facilitate projects with interdisciplinary collaboration, and promote their value in both internal and external communications.

Goal 3: Increase interdisciplinary research and dialogue across ESU. Hold regular, interdisciplinary events that promote dialogue among faculty and departments, and recognize collaborative work within ESU and work with faculty from other universities.

Goal 4: Strengthen and develop linkages between faculty research expertise and regional economic, artistic, cultural, intellectual, social, health and scientific needs and demands.

- Explore joint initiatives with the Center for Joint Economic Development to seek endowments for research in key areas.
- Increase the visibility and expand the number of externally-funded research centers and institutes.

Goal 5: Promote and enhance research and scholarly activities that provide transformative experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.

- Reconstitute an undergraduate research program led by the University Council on Undergraduate Research, and which includes a research journal, a fund for student research fellowships and a colloquium for students and faculty to link and share their research interests.
- Start a graduate research program, which includes a fund for student research fellowships, and a colloquium for students and faculty to link and share their research interests.