UWM’s Future as an Urban Flagship University: Critical Investments

Updating the 2017 Research Excellence Report

Report to the Faculty Senate
October 2020
Mark Harris, Vice Provost for Research
Research Development Working Group

• History
  – Request from Provost and Chancellor for a follow-up to 2017 Research Excellence Report
  – Interest from the Committee of Distinguished Professors in retaining R-1

• Ad hoc working group
  – 11 members; faculty and academic staff; some overlap with 2017 team
  – Meet during 2019-20 academic year
  – Report
    • Delayed by COVID pandemic
    • Written in mid-late September
    • Limited time to prioritize
Framing Elements

• UWM Identity as an Urban Flagship University
  – Top-Tier R-1 Research Standing
  – Setting and Mission
  – Destination Campus for Students, Faculty and Staff
  – Importance of Community Engagement

• Looking Ahead
  – Program Array and Responsiveness
  – Expand Collaborative & Team Research
  – Development of UWM’s Workforce

• Pressing Needs
  – Graduate Student Support
  – Research Infrastructure

• Campus Culture
  – Research and Scholarship across the University
Areas of recommendations (1)

A. **Strengthening UWM’s top-tier research university brand**
   – Cohesive communication strategy focused on high-quality top-tier status

B. **Intensify integration of research into undergraduate academic life**
   – High-quality research experiences and external opportunities to enrich classroom experiences
   – Programs and opportunities to attract students of diverse backgrounds

C. **Expand collaborative research & community-engaged research**
   – Establish 5-7 campus-level cross-cutting themes; target some hires for these
   – Focus research centers and institutes on cross-disciplinary/collaborative research
   – Develop “research neighborhoods”
   – Shift seed funding toward collaborative research
Areas of Recommendations (2)

D. **Faculty and staff hiring and workload expectations**
   - Implement flexible systems for using faculty time
   - Use Research Professor and Teaching Professor titles
   - Assure that P/T processes incorporate full range of research and scholarly activities

E. **Strengthening graduate programs in traditional and emerging research areas**
   - Graduate Student Stipends and Training
   - Flexible cross-disciplinary programs

F. **Strengthening the University’s research infrastructure**
   - Library
   - Shared Facilities
   - Compliance and Collaborative support

G. **Continue to develop a campus culture that values scholarship across the entire University**
   - Linking scholars across disciplinary boundaries (events, symposiums, programs)
   - Fund-raising priorities
Next steps

• 2030 Implementation Research Sub-Team
  – Provided the report along with the 2017 Research Excellence Report
  – 2030 group will use the reports as a point of departure, not a limiting boundary

• Research Policy and Advisory Committee
  – Discussion at meeting in late October
Members of the Working Group

- Bettina Arnold, Anthropology, College of Letters and Science
- Ann Hanlon, Digital Humanities, UWM Libraries
- Mark Harris, Office of Research & Geosciences, College of Letters and Science
- Robin Mello, Theatre, Peck School of the Arts
- Kristian O’Connor, Office of Research & Kinesiology, College of Health Sciences
- David Petering, Chemistry, College of Letters and Science
- Vali Raicu, Physics, College of Letters and Science
- Nigel Rothfels, Office of Undergraduate Research & History, College of Letters and Science
- Michelle Schoenecker, Research Development, Office of Research
- AkkeNeel Talsma, College of Nursing
- Kari Whittenberger-Keith, Research Development, Office of Research