

WFC meeting 112816

- VPR Sewell came to share his vision of research at OSU
 - “OSU has the impact, reputation, culture and underlying processes of a great research institution, one in which research is integral to the academic mission and infused through all its disciplinary and interdisciplinary diversity”
 - What can we do as a university together to fulfill this statement?
 - Take each point separately
 - “Great research university”
 - OSU has long been a major research university—are we a great one?
 - Have areas of excellence, but the status/reputation/relative position has not been the strongest in the ok/good/great spectrum
 - Are we perceived as where we actually are? VPR believes reputation doesn’t match reality, sometimes not even internally
 - “Impact”
 - Faculty are leaders in innovation, scholarship, and creativity driving the research. Impact comes when faculty are disciplinary leaders, boundary breakers, and community/society changers
 - We can see ourselves in this statement, but also know need to elevate
 - “Culture”
 - Faculty members and most if not all graduate students are engaged in research daily
 - Can see most improvement in undergraduate research—do they see research in the day-to-day interactions with faculty and graduate students? Can we grow?
 - “Reputation”
 - Starts at home—do we faculty/staff/students believe we are part of a great research university?
 - Need to show pride and understanding amongst constituent communities, foster understanding of what a great research University is
 - Room to grow to National/International status. Need to be better at communicating our qualities; are we telling the true story or being too humble?
 - “Underlying processes”
 - Defined as the administrative/coordination aspect of what we do. The processes through which we do our work express our values in terms of what is important
 - Want to identify processes that unnecessarily impede/delay/frustrate/etc. research productivity and try to

- improve them; also applies to how we evaluate the research going on, as well as the administrative funding aspects
 - “Infused through all its disciplinary/interdisciplinary diversity”
 - Want research to be an inclusive endeavor; include scientific inquiry, technological development, scholarly achievement, and creative artistry
 - Need to be broader in our definition of research to be great. How big is your umbrella? How do you define research? What aspects of these should the VPR care about and promote?
 - “Research integral to academic mission”
 - 3 components to OSU mission: teaching/instruction, research/scholarship, outreach/extension; all should be combined in a research culture with research as pervasive in classroom and outreach activities as it is in lab. Students should be aware of faculty’s research, how it improved their education and was integral to the department; don’t leave your research at the door when entering the classroom, include it in the curriculum
 - Quote: “a student with a degree from OSU should find it inconceivable how someone can be an educated scholar without attending a great research university”
 - However, no single point in this statement is solely under VPR control
 - aspects are, and to varying degrees
 - if we do this right, primary beneficiaries are students
- Question and answer session with the VPR
 - Q: State legislature doesn’t see our importance, what can we do to tell them they are crippling some of our programs by cutting budget?
 - A: Find ways to not make it just self-interest. How is it impacting the state—economics particularly? Need to enlist other people: graduates, people you assist with research, communities that you have helped, business leaders from corporations that rely upon what we do, to say how higher education benefits. Need to help outsiders to see importance in basic research as well as artistry and applied research.
 - Q: How do we improve resources for faculty?
 - A: we will not get legislature in short term to allocate additional funds; we may be able to bump start ups to attract faculty, but in terms of other attractors to brighter students and faculty, to hire at highest level, we need to put more resources on table. But we only have limited sources of funding: state is off table, hard to raise tuition/fees to pay faculty growth, so only reallocation, and efficiency are left. Reallocation seems to be the only way to go—OSU has lots of decentralized areas which is both a benefit and a hindrance.
 - Q: Could the limited time available to use start-up money be extended?
 - A: It’s a conversation we need to have—what is start up, and what is the role of start up funding? Tenure processes center on start up as

- being a 3-year timeframe, so that's where the money belongs; money that can be used to fill in gaps of external funding is a different topic
- Q: How do you see the WFC working with VPR to advocate for women and family issues?
 - A: Leadership development needs to be improved as a purposeful and intentional thing; not just for women looking to move into administration, but within groups and divisions. Want a way to engage in intentional leadership development. Not sure what solution is, though some might be partnerships within the region, a leadership development academy, to continue to improve ADVANCE grants, or create a community creates a voice to get things going
 - Q: What do other institutions do that you'd like to bring to OSU?
 - A: Reinforcement theory: if you want more, reinforce it. We say we want more interdisciplinarity, creativity, etc. but we don't advocate or reinforce it. Not every award can be monetary, but should reward excellence; started to talk with the Deans about how to organize this.
 - Comment: VPR Sewell appreciates that there is an associate dean for research in every college that he relies on for advice and that aims to work together
 - Q: What can be done about preferred vendor pricing that is higher than for the same item than through the internet from the same company?
 - A: He has started a conversation with purchasing about being more creative and less rule-bound. These conversations obviously driven by higher priced items. Also need to be creative to create a streamlined purchasing process still within the state rules.
 - Other WFC business
 - Schedule for next semester
 - Research Week panel: Women and Leadership 2/21/17 from 3-4:30pm in ITLE 126 (co-sponsored with ITLE)
 - Book club "Lean In" by Sheryl Sandberg starting 1/26/17
 - ITLE will take care of registration
 - Hope to have room for more people this year
 - Panel discussion on Advocacy for Women in March (date TBA)
 - Celebration reception for scholarship and research award winners in early April (date TBA)
 - Need to have an official policy for maternity leave for students and post-docs in terms of support; no uniform policy even within a department much less university
 - Grad college was developing a policy, not sure what happened to that
 - With regards to family-friendly scheduling
 - Pulled together stats about family leave, etc. and saw most things ended before 5, but not all items were on official calendars
 - What policies exist that make this university family friendly, and what do we need to be family friendly

- Would faculty council recommend a task force? Contact Faculty Council officers prior to meeting to discuss the possibility beforehand. May have older statutes that can be adapted to our purpose