

Research Council
2015-2016 Annual Report
Chair: Dr. Kevin Baer

Four meetings were held during the reporting period. The council's main charge was to develop a strategic plan for research in alignment with ULM 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, including developing strategic goals. However, before discussions began, Dr. Gissendanner (President of the Faculty Senate) requested the Council review and issue a recommendation on the Indirect Cost Return and Use Policy. It was cited as a motivating policy that should be retained and used as is to encourage research.

Dr. Baer drafted a document - Research Mission and Values - for review by the Council. After some discussion, it was agreed to amend the proposed document and it was subsequently approved (see attachment below).

Dr. Baer submitted examples of strategic goals for discussion (see attachment below). After considerable debate, it was agreed to develop a new administrative structure (see attachment below) for research programs including separating from the graduate school, and hiring an experienced leader at the cabinet level (i.e., Vice President for research). It was definitely felt that both these steps were necessary for the Office of Sponsored Programs to provide the kind of help needed to facilitate the growth of the research function on ULM campus.

Dr. Baer met with Dr. Pani to discuss the concept of a Research Corporation. During the subsequent Council meeting, there was considerable discussion of whether the research corporation was an appropriate structure for enhancing research at ULM. Dr. Pani met with the Council to discuss the Research Corporation and answer questions. The Council requested to review the job description/announcement for the Director's position and provide feedback/recommendations.

The discussion around the strategic goals was suspended pending the review of the Research Corporation and Director's position. The Council felt it needed a better understanding of the new Corporation paradigm before drafting strategic goals for the University. The job description/announcement was not submitted to the Council during the Spring 2016 semester, therefore no meetings were scheduled.

Strategic Plan for Research

Mission:

To advance ULM's success in research, scholarship, and innovation in support of intellectual goals for higher education, societal benefits, and economic development.

Vision:

Establish ULM as a nationally recognized research institution that serves the state, region, and nation.

Values:

Innovation

Develop and implement creative ideas and solutions.

Excellence

Uphold high intellectual standards.

Collaboration

Engage with other University leaders and stakeholders to advance creative scholarship and the research enterprise.

Integrity

Ensure that the research enterprise conforms to the highest moral and ethical standards.

Accountability

Acknowledge and assume responsibility for our actions, decisions, and results.

Examples of Strategic Goals/Action Steps

Develop and Enhance Research Initiatives

Enable partnerships with industry, state agencies, and other stakeholders to develop large multidisciplinary proposals.

Establish synergistic partnerships with businesses and health care systems.

Engage with the appropriate officials to recruit businesses and start-up ventures.

Increase visibility of University research through news releases, web-based information, and research reports.

Assist in establishing multidisciplinary academic programs associated with corresponding research efforts

Sponsor multidisciplinary research forums for faculty to interact with each other.

Lead the empowerment of faculty, staff, and students to excel in innovation, commercialization, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

Obtain resources to help faculty maintain research competitiveness

Provide on-going training for faculty, staff, and students regarding the policies, procedures, and intellectual property.

Develop policies, procedures, forms, and business documents in order to provide best-in-class services to faculty, staff, and stakeholders.

Enhance the student learning experience through engagement in advanced research and scholarly activities

Develop an administrative structure to support higher performance in sponsored research and economic development.

Recruit, develop, and retain talented people and ensure that the Office/Division has the human, financial, and technical capability to advance the research enterprise.

Ensure effective communication, visibility, and response to the Louisiana Congressional delegation and key federal agencies.

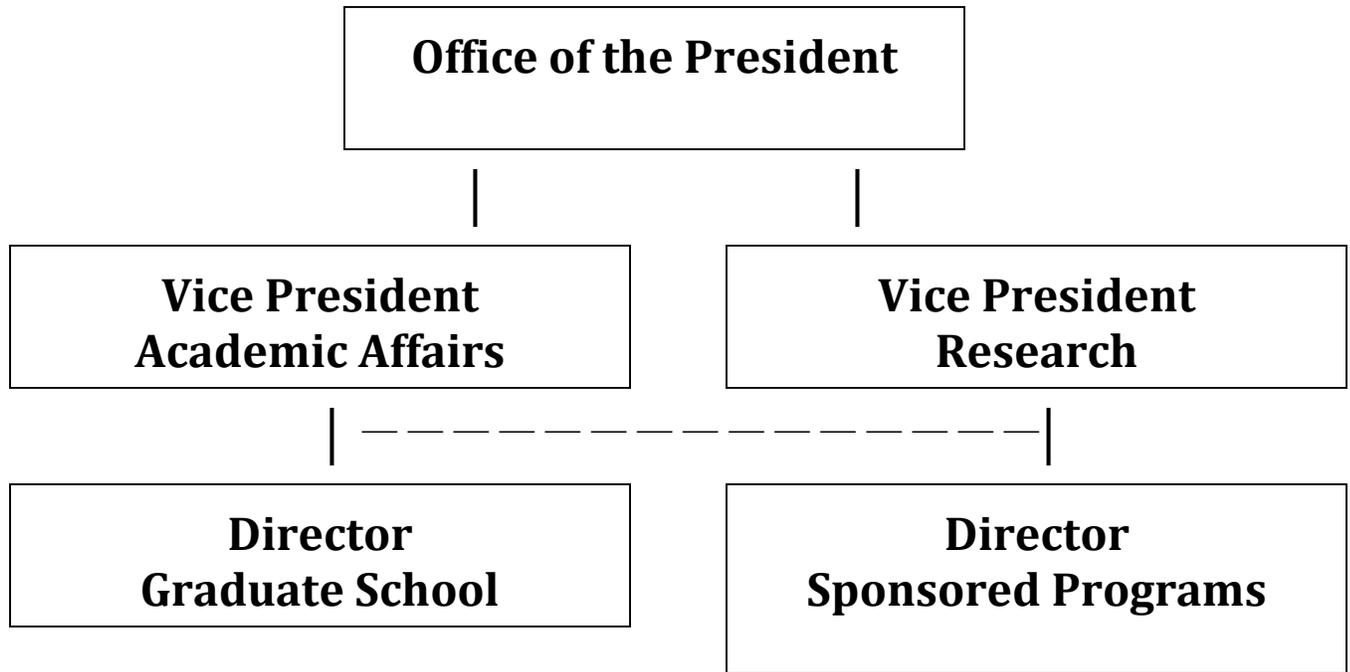
Provide administrative services that empower employees and students to excel in research and scholarship.

Emphasize assistance and support services to faculty and staff in obtaining and managing externally funded projects.

Develop written policies and procedures relevant to research and sponsored programs.

Produce informative workshops and training that will enhance competitiveness in research funding, compliance with regulations and other matters.

**Proposed Administrative Structure for the
Strategic Plan for Research**



The Research Council would like more information concerning the mission/goals of the Research Corporation. In addition, the Council would like more information on the qualifications of the Director.

Concerns: The Corporation would be a separate entity from ULM administrative structure and the Director would not hold a cabinet level position essential for being an advocate for research within the present administrative structure. The Director needs to be an individual with a research faculty background and not a business-manager. In addition, the Council sees the Corporation being another level of bureaucracy hindering timely grant submissions.