

Members present: William Rooks, Jessica Seagraves, Danny Sniff, Steve Dempsey, Ryan Nesbit, Philip Greenspan, Jan Barham, Ralph Johnson, Eric Mueller, Betty Jean Craige, Shannon Scott, Ann Crowther, Irwin Bernstein, Lonnie Brown, Sarah Spence, Ron Cervero, William Vencill

Guest: David Lee

Meeting was held at the Interim Medical Partnership Building. David Lee, Vice President of Research at UGA was the guest and provided his insights in to the future of research at UGA and answered questions concerning research at UGA.

An overview of UGA slipping in rankings as measured by Federal Expenditure on R & D was mentioned. At the time of the last strategic plan in 1999, UGA was ranked 84. The goal of the plan was to have UGA in the top 50. However, UGA had slipped to 104 in 2007, but in the most recent rankings has made it back to 94. It was mentioned that there are many facets of measuring research, but the most recognized standard is sponsored research and the most common measure is Federal R&D Expenditure.

Research funding has increased 29% in the past fiscal year.

Research is probably the biggest differentiator of where UGA is vis-vis aspirant institutions and where UGA wants to be in the future.

The lack of medical research and an engineering program contribute to lower rankings in this area, but does not account for a drop in rankings over the last ten years. UGA is almost alone among large state research universities without either a medical or engineering school.

What are the challenges for the research enterprise at UGA?

The lack of engineering and medical research program. The MCG-UGA partnership will be mostly an instructional enterprise for the next few years and will not contribute to research funding increase for the near future.

The lack of large multi-center, multi-faculty, multi-institutional grants.

The lack of an effective reward program for grantsmanship.

Not fully using the potential of institutes and centers to promote interdisciplinary research.

Grant support infrastructure.

Graduate students, particularly doctoral students.

What should UGA do to promote the research enterprise?

If the goal is improve UGA's research ranking, it needs to be a campus-wide priority the way undergraduate instruction has been the past decade. Faculty hiring needs to be a priority and the hiring needs to be for areas where UGA has recognized or emerging research excellence. Faculty hiring should be a mix of established and young faculty so that research leadership is present. Only hire tenure track faculty with potential to contribute to research. Take full advantage of programs such as the Georgia Research Alliance.

Facilities need to be improved for some programs. The math and computational programs are in antiquated facilities. Chemistry and some life science faculty have sub-optimal conditions.

The separation of many institutions in research ranking is relatively small. Only \$60 million separates UGA at rank 94 from Indiana University at rank 59.

A pool of money for hiring faculty for research areas that the institutions deems necessary should be provided.

Cluster hiring is an excellent means of building research excellence on campus. This has been done with a measure of success in the Infectious disease area where the BOR provided funds to hire seven faculty across three colleges to build a program in an area where UGA had established strength.

A question was asked about how humanities research fit into the overall research enterprise at UGA since they did not require large sponsored funding. A question was asked about how did humanities research at UGA rank compared to other peer and aspirational schools.

After the question and answer session, Danny Sniff provided some background on how the Interim Medical Partnership Building was configured for medical instruction and gave a tour.

The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.