Strategic Plan Research Profile Subcommittee: 12-4-15, 1:30-3:00 pm

Members present: Beate Schmittmann, Kan Wang, Balaji Narasimhan, Adam Schwartz, Nathan Davis, Harrison Inefuku, Amy Andreotti, Michael Kimber, Cathy Kling, Misty Spencer, Lora-Leigh Chrystal, Lisa Leiden (arrived late), (Wolfgang Kliemann and Kevin Kane [for Julia Badenhop] came around 2:30)

Absent: Qijing Zhang

All members represent a group, so keep communications open. The Infrastructure committee asked to have a liaison on our committee – Jim Reecy.

Beate recapped two Open Forums.

Talked about charge of committee and asked everyone to look at documents on website.

Reviewed schedule of meetings: every 2 weeks – five in total.

Pre-meeting Survey results distributed: Beate sorted by area and reviewed.

Need to find ways to engage the university, i.e., open web forum, lunch time gathering with pizza and drink.

Discussion items:

- Industrial research support from Iowa companies and from all companies.
- We are underselling our relationship with Ames Lab. Adam gave an overview of national labs.
- Public and private funding source ratio. How to fund research going forward. Patents, corporate funding, etc.
- Funding from NGOs and foundations. Small funds from state agencies - overlaps with economic development and role in the state. Who is our competition? What areas can we build and grow in?
- Think about how other universities invest in internal funding. What were their strategies to get to where they are now? (MIT, Purdue, peer institutions). Seed funding is critical. It enables faculty to generate preliminary data for obtaining successful federal fundings.
- How does one assess the quality of grad students: placement, grades, publications in high impact journals. Without quality grad students, there won’t be faculty success.
- What are expectations from deans and chairs on how many proposals should a full professor write?
- Faculty hiring: Try to coordinate mass hiring in critical areas. Strategy to look at 10 universities below us and take away their best faculty. Be more aggressive.
- How to energize, incentivize, and support effective on campus faculty collaboration and innovation?
- Data collection: Does the university do enough to recruit faculty? Need to promote family living in Ames and two-scholar hiring (spousal accommodation).
- Improve Infrastructure issues on campus. Lack of adequate instrumentation and infrastructure can severely stifle research activities, especially for experimental scientists. If this does not get resolved, any new hires would only create more tension among faculty, instead of bringing more productivity.
After some discussion, the group identified the following four themes as essential for strong research at ISU. A fifth category ("other" for lack of a better title) collects some additional critical items. Each theme was assigned to three committee members who will flesh out some of the context.

**Action items:**

For each of these four themes, write a brief description of where we are and where we should be headed. Consider ISU’s strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats:

1. Develop more coordinated and more proactive faculty hiring strategies across the university. Develop strategies to enhance collaboration among existing faculty including new hires. *(Beate, Michael Kimber, Adam Schwartz)*
2. Grow ISU’s research expenditures (funding sources, seed funding, grants hub, etc.): *(Balaji Narasimhan, Cathy Kling, Lisa Leiden)*
3. Develop strategies for recruiting high quality graduate students *(Misty Spencer, Lora-Leigh Crystal, Amy Andreotti)*
4. Develop and implement a plan to enhance ISU’s research Infrastructure: *(Kan Wang, Nathan Davis, Wolfgang Kliemann)*

Other category: high impact publications, awards (AAU class, etc.) and other aspects of faculty productivity. Opportunities presented by undergraduate research. *(Harrison Inefuku)*

The subgroups are invited to collaborate in any way they find productive (face-to-face, CyBox, Googledocs, etc.).

**Additional data requests:**

The group also identified additional data needs, through the pre-meeting survey and discussion at the meeting:

- Data on graduate student enrollment over 10 years
- Data on university budget allocation on infrastructure improvement in past 10 years
- Data on university budget allocation on graduate program support in past 10 years
- University-wide data on proposals and awards by funding agency
- Breakdown of total funding to ISU into federal, industry, government, etc., in past 10 years
- College research plans
- Ranking of AAU institutions on AAU metrics in the past 10 years

Beate and Kan will work with the steering committee and the colleges to collect this information.

The pre-meeting survey was distributed and results from seven members is attached. Also attached are the results grouped by topic or area.