I. Minutes, September 30, 2005   Action

II. Research Infrastructure    Information

III. Interim Associate Dean, Graduate School    Information

IV. Search – Dean, Graduate School    Information

V. Graduate Education Task Force    Information

VI. University Research Council    Information

VII. West Research Campus    Information

VIII. Investment in Research Centers and Institutes    Discussion

IX. Start-up Requests for Faculty Recruiting    Information

X. Collaboration with Coastal Studies Institute    Discussion
Minutes
Research, Economic Development & Community Engagement Committee
Friday, September 30, 2005, 10:58am–11:05am
Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms


Chairman Greczyn called the meeting to order. A motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes for the July 19, 2005 meeting.

Chairman Greczyn acknowledged Dr. Paul Gemperline for his report. Dr. Gemperline thanked Mr. Greczyn and announced that Vice Chancellor Mageean was unable to attend due to the recent passing of her husband, Dr. Raymond O’Connor, who was a tenure faculty in the biology department. Dr. Mageean is an outstanding leader with great spirit; ECU is fortunate to have her on board.

Dr. Gemperline drew attention to the updated detailed data on ECU graduate enrollment trends included in the Board book. In general, a small number of doctoral programs are growing on campus. Enrollment is growing in those doctoral programs and will help drive research at ECU forward. Most of the increases in graduate enrollment at the master’s level are occurring through distance education.

Dr. Mageean is putting together a University Research Council. The Council will consist of 27 members with representatives from Administration, deans, associate deans and faculty. Over half of the board is comprised of faculty. The Council will be convened about every two months to review policies and recommend improvements in policies and practices related to research and graduate education.

Thanks to the efforts of many people, including the Chancellor’s Office, the Medical School, Pitt Community College and community organizations, a North Carolina Biotechnology Office will open in Greenville this fall.

A review of several coastal research and graduate programs was recently conducted with the use of external consultants. We have received their recommendations and are considering some reorganizations to consolidate our strengths and capitalize on our assets in coastal research issues.

Chairman Greczyn expressed sympathies for Dr. Mageean and family, and thanked Dr Gemperline for his report.
Mr. Redwine asked if the difference between on-campus and distance education graduate numbers would have an impact on the overall goal towards increasing research, being that we seem to be headed to a more distance education graduate granting degree institution as opposed to on-campus? Was there any cause for alarm in anyway?

Chancellor Ballard responded that there are really two separate things. His view was that the increased numbers were good for lots of reasons related to the growth of the graduate population. But in terms of research capability, what ECU needs to do in a very targeted way is grow the quality of doctoral programs in selected areas that match the institution’s strengths, especially those related to biomedical research and basic sciences that support biomedical research.

Dr. Gemperline concurred that ECU’s capacity to increase research was going to come through targeted investments in selected areas and that has to be primarily in doctoral programs. Growth in targeted investments is being seen in those areas, and we are being careful and very selective in how those investments are made.

Mr. Greczyn made comment that if he read the charts correctly, PhD and EdD enrollment has actually grown much more quickly in a residential fashion rather than through distance education.

Dr. Gemperline responded that was correct. The overall rate was much faster in that area.

With no other comments, Mr. Showfety adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Pio
Transcribed by LBJ
**Research Infrastructure**

The following organizational chart shows the research infrastructure to be implemented within the Division of Research and Graduate Studies over the next year. Program development functions, IT support, and a communications assistant will be directed by the Associate Vice Chancellor. Research integrity and compliance functions will be consolidated under the direction of a single office. Institutional compliance committees will report independently to the Vice Chancellor to avoid potential conflicts of interest. For the next year, the Office of Economic Development will report to the Research Division until the strategic direction of this office is more clearly defined. A search for a permanent Dean of the Graduate School is underway which should be successfully concluded in time for the start of the Fall 2006 semester. Once this position is filled, searches to fill other interim leadership positions in the Graduate School will be quickly conducted. Interdisciplinary graduate programs will also report to the Dean of the Graduate School. Institutes and Centers will report directly to the Vice Chancellor.

**Interim Associate Dean, Graduate School**

Dr. Ronald Newton, Chair of the Department of Biology, has been appointed Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Newton will be responsible for graduate program reviews and other administrative duties assigned by the Dean of the Graduate School.

**Search – Dean, Graduate School**

A search committee for a permanent Dean of the Graduate School was formulated according to Appendix L of the Faculty Manual. The Search Committee is chaired by Dr. Phyllis Horns, Dean of the School of Nursing, is comprised of 10 members, six graduate faculty members from a diverse cross-section of departments, two deans and one administrative representative. The Search Committee’s first meeting was held on November 11, 2005. An advertisement and updated position description was completed on November 30, 2005, and disseminated through appropriate professional channels. Screening of candidates will begin during the Spring 2006 semester, followed by on-campus visits by selected applicants. It is anticipated that a new dean will be on board by July 1, 2006.

**Graduate Education Task Force**

A task force chaired by Acting Associate Vice Chancellor Paul Gemperline is being formed to study graduate education practices at ECU, including the current distribution of graduate assistantships, criteria for allocation of assistantship funds, minimum assistantship levels, health care, tuition remissions (in-state and out-of-state), balance between masters and doctoral enrollment, balance between on-campus and distance education enrollment, stipend levels, and other similar issues associated with graduate assistantships. The task force will engage the campus community, including graduate faculty, department chairpersons, associate deans, deans and the Graduate Assembly, including directors of graduate programs in a dialog designed to develop recommendations to ensure there is adequate support for graduate education and to ensure institutional funds for graduate assistantships and tuition remissions are utilized in the most effective manner possible.
University Research Council
The University Research Council (URC) held its inaugural meeting on December 2, 2005. The URC is comprised of 27 members, seven administrative representatives, a graduate student representative, the chair of the Faculty Senate, and 18 faculty members representing a diverse cross-section of departments and colleges, including the arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and health sciences. The URC will meet monthly to promote research at ECU through activities such as discussing ways to improve University policies and practices related to research, encouraging interdisciplinary research activities, and suggesting strategic research initiatives.

West Research Campus
See separate memo, attached.

Start-up Requests for Faculty Recruiting
A pool of more than $1,000,000 from general institutional support (GIS) funds and unspent faculty salary has been identified for supporting faculty start-up packages. In many disciplines, recruiting faculty members with substantial research potential is a highly competitive endeavor. Often times, an adequate start-up package, especially in technical fields, can make a significant difference when recruiting faculty with outstanding research potential. For this reason, the Division of Research and Graduate Studies, under the direction of Vice Chancellor Deirdre Mageean, oversees a pool of institutional funds to help Department Chairs and Deans assemble competitive start-up packages. These funds represent a significant investment in the future research productivity of East Carolina University; therefore, the Research Division will periodically request follow-up information from Department Chairs, Deans and recipients of start-up funds to assess their impact on the faculty member’s research productivity, the Department’s research productivity, and the College or School’s research productivity.
MEMORANDUM

To: Chancellor's Executive Council
via: Deirdre M. Mageean, Vice Chancellor, R&GS

From: Paul Gumperline, Acting Associate Vice Chancellor, Research and Graduate Studies

Date: November 17, 2005

RE: Disposition of VOA parcel. 581 acres, 367 acres classified as wetlands – US Dept of Education, decision required by early December, 2005

The former VOA Site C was deeded to ECU under federal surplus property rules through the US Department of Education. The site was subdivided into a 13.3 acre administrative parcel with the administrative building and its supporting buildings and a 581 acre undeveloped portion with the antenna fields. This memo concerns the 581 acre undeveloped parcel only.

ECU’s original proposal to acquire undeveloped parcel required construction of facilities for indoor educational use (30 year deed) in order to receive a 100% public benefit allowance. Due to the wetlands classification and limited budget, ECU uses the property for outdoor educational use only, for which ECU can only receive 60% public benefit allowance. At ECU’s option, we can earn public benefit credit by making payments in lieu of delivering indoor educational programs.

- Annual payments: $166,000 x 0.40 x 1/30 = $2,213
- Total cost over the remaining 27 years of the deed: $2,213 x 27 = $59,751
- Grounds Services estimates annual maintenance costs of the perimeter and "roads" at $36,960 (40 man-hours monthly, salary and equipment expenses)
- I recommend that ECU maintain ownership of the site for research, education and training.

East Carolina University is an equal opportunity affirmative action university, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.
Current Utilization:

- Carol Goodwillie and Lise Clough obtained an NSF grant in 2002 ($50,165) to establish a long-term ecological field site that is used to gather plant and animal data by ecology students (250/year) providing an historical framework that can be analyzed both on a short-term and a long-term basis.
- David Chalcraf (Biology, tenure track) uses about 100 large tanks of water to study amphibian and fish populations. The large number of tanks allows him to replicate his experiments. He is actively seeking funds to support this work ($652,697, NSF, not funded; $775,965, NSF, pending; $746,841, EPA, pending)
- An interdisciplinary group of 6 to 8 faculty use this site for education and research field studies, ecology studies, restoration studies, and compatible human recreational use. These initiatives have moderate grant potential. Income from overhead generated by these grants may one day cover the costs noted above, but substantial growth will need to occur over the next 5 to 10 years.
- Approximately 500 to 750 students visit the site on one or more occasions annually for field studies (Biology, Geography, Recreation and Leisure Studies).
- Numerous other miscellaneous uses continue to grow (See July 2005 report to DOE for details, available on request).
  - Mowing and herbicide treatment study (NCSU)
  - Groundwater monitoring station (NC DNER)
  - Army ROTC training (new this year)
  - Cross-country track team training (proposed)
  - Animal decomposition studies (Anthropology)

Future Utilization:
The West Research Campus Steering Committee was established to advise the Vice Chancellor for Research on utilization of the site. A strategic planning subcommittee has been established that is working with Bruce Flye, Director of Campus Space Planning, to develop an appropriate strategic site master plan for the site within the context of the University's broader strategic planning initiative.