AGENDA
ECU Board of Trustees
Research, Economic Development & Community Engagement
February 24, 2006

I. Minutes, December 16, 2005  Action

II. Internal Research Funding  Information

III. UNC Coastal Studies Infrastructure  Discussion

IV. Economic Development  Information
Minutes  
Research, Economic Development & Community Engagement Committee  
Friday, December 16, 2005, 10:58am–11:16am  
Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms  


Co-chair Mr. William Bodenhamer called the meeting to order. A motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes for the September 30, 2005 meeting.  

Mr. Bodenhamer welcomed Dr. Deirdre Mageean.  

Vice Chancellor Mageean acknowledged Chairman Showfety, Chancellor Ballard, and members of the Board. She then called the Committee’s attention to the items on the Agenda.  

**Graduate School:** A national search is being conducted for the Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Paul Tschetter is the interim dean. The intent is to have someone in place by the summer of this year. Advertisement has been disseminated in the Chronicles of Higher Education and other professional channels.  

The associate dean position has been vacant upon the departure of Dr. Max Poole. Dr. Ronald J Newton, who has been chair of the department of biology and who has a lot of respect as a senior member of this University, has been asked to step into that role on an interim basis. He will take a special look at the current interdisciplinary graduate programs and some potential growth in that area, graduate program reviews amongst other duties assigned by the Dean.  

**Graduate Education Task Force:** Dr. Paul Gemperline, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, will chair a task force to study practices of funding graduate education at the University. The institution puts a large sum of money into this either from the Graduate School or from the deans themselves. The Task Force will engage the campus 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. Representation of the Committee is made up of deans, faculty, and administrators.  

The **University Research Council** held its inaugural meeting December 2, 2005. This is a committee comprised of 27 members that include administrators, a graduate student, and faculty, with the majority being faculty. It is a broad cross section of departments and chairs so that all of the different forms of research and creative activity of the University have a voice. The Council will meet on a monthly basis to discuss how to promote research at ECU through activities such as discussing ways to improve
University policies and practices, enhancement of interdisciplinary research, suggestions for strategic initiatives, and advancement of the University research agenda.

Start-up Funds for Faculty Recruiting: One very important area for the University is the amount of money it invests in faculty. A pool of more than $1 million from general institutional support and unspent faculty salary has been set aside this year for start-up funds for new faculty. These funds are important in recruiting the very best to ECU. It is a very competitive world out there; these funds enable ECU to compete to get the best people here. This is important for scientists who have particular needs, usually quite expensive needs in laboratory equipment and lab space, etc.

Mr. Brody asked what a typical start-up package would be.

Dr. Mageean responded that for some scientists, it can be close to a quarter million these days, and that is not actually even peculiar just to the scientists. Artists are now becoming more technical and needing technical and computer equipment and so their needs have grown as well.

The start-up packages vary by discipline. Some of them are for $75k – $150k; some of the disciplines are smaller amounts, $20k – $25k. Dr. Mageean cited an example of how this works particularly well. We have a young faculty member, Dr. Sherry Jones, in Communication Sciences and Disorders, now in her third year. When she came to ECU, Dean Stephen Thomas was able to offer her a start-up package of $140,000. Dr Jones has leveraged that investment. We have just heard that she has just been awarded a $1.4 million grant from NIH and she is also a co-investigator on another NIH grant which just came through for $1.1 million. That is the kind of return on the investment for start-up funds we are looking at. If we get a return like that on all of our investments, we will do very well.

Dr. Ballard added that if we hire someone in the neurosciences, they just wouldn’t come if we didn’t make a promise for a real start-up package for their laboratory for them to be successful because they know that 10 other universities would offer it and it’s just a part of the compensation package that you offer.

Dr. Mageean said that we can use F&A money, but also F&A moneys are returned to the Colleges/Schools. 30% goes back immediately to the colleges – 10% to the dean, 10% to the chair, and 10% to the investigator. The investigator or the chair can actually allow the funds to accumulate into a sort of a “war chest” so the investigator can buy more equipment, or they could hire a graduate student which is a good use of the funds. Dr. Mageean emphasized that the 30% F&A goes across both campuses, east and west, to invest in all research at the university, not just one part of the campus.

Research Infrastructure: Dr. Mageean showed PowerPoint’s of two charts of the Division, one which had been called by some a maze, and the proposed infrastructure. 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. The Office of Economic Development will report to the Division until the strategic direction of this office is more clearly defined.

The new infrastructure is to provide a more rational, efficient and well functioning unit which will enhance the ability of the faculty to bring in the kind of grants that was previously cited.

Dr Mageean concluded her report with mention of an ECU medical invention that was selected as the most intriguing healthcare product during the Phase I competition of the Duke Start-up Challenge. The Challenge is a three phase competition conducted over a period of six months that awards up to $50k to top teams who build management teams, formulate business plans and develop core technology. The Challenge provides a unique outlet for students from Duke and other institutions to gain valuable experience in the world of entrepreneurship: everything from marketing and finance, to product development and sales. ECU was represented by MBA student Josh Foltz and Drs. David Pravica (Mathematics) and Orville Day (Physics). Drs Pravica and Day, and graduate Physics student Scott Brock are co-inventors on a medical device utilizing acoustic signal technology and mathematical algorithms to non-invasively detect arterial blockages. Phases II and III of the competition will continue from January through April 2006.
Institutional Funding to Stimulate Research at ECU

Faculty Start-up Funds
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 the Vice Chancellor, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total amount</th>
<th>Number of faculty supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 / 2006</td>
<td>$814,604</td>
<td>22 Faculty members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 / 2007</td>
<td>$356,105</td>
<td>9 Faculty members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 / 2008</td>
<td>$ 55,420</td>
<td>3 Faculty members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Development Grants
The Research Division is conducting its second annual Research Development Grant Competition in 2006. These awards are to be used as seed grants for faculty members to develop preliminary data for a major research grant application to an external sponsor. Proposals for basic and applied research projects in basic and professional fields are to be considered. Submission of a proposal to an external sponsor will be required within 18 months after the start of the award. Funds may be used for small equipment, research expenses, and salaries for students, etc. In FY 2006/2007, the Research Division expects to fund approximately 15 to 20 proposals in the $25,000 to $40,000 range. Anticipated starting and ending dates are July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program year</th>
<th>Total amount</th>
<th>Number of awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 / 2006</td>
<td>$551,000</td>
<td>23 proposals funded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 / 2007</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>15 to 20 (anticipated)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Senate Research/Creative Activity Grants
The Faculty Senate Research/Creative Activity Grants Committee conducts an annual grant competition to support faculty research. Proposals for research and creative activity from full-time tenured, full-time tenure track, and clinical faculty are accepted from any discipline, including the mathematics and physical sciences, social and behavioral sciences, humanities and the arts. The committee submits recommendations of meritorious proposals to be funded to the Vice Chancellor for Research and reports the final list of funded proposals to the Faculty Senate.

Table 3: Faculty Senate Research / Creative Activity Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program year</th>
<th>Total amount</th>
<th>Number of awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004 / 2005</td>
<td>$412,706</td>
<td>26 proposals funded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 / 2006</td>
<td>$422,940</td>
<td>27 proposals funded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extramural Support
Proposals submitted by faculty for the external funding of projects are listed below. Figures for the same period last year are summarized for purposes of comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Including Non-Traditionals</th>
<th>Jan '05</th>
<th>Jan '06</th>
<th>July '04 – Jan '05</th>
<th>July '05 – Jan '06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of Proposals Submitted</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Requested</td>
<td>$3,108,035</td>
<td>$11,966,621</td>
<td>$42,441,594</td>
<td>$124,266,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Proposals Funded</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Awarded</td>
<td>$1,183,390</td>
<td>$1,375,179</td>
<td>$19,316,900</td>
<td>$19,707,092</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Economic Development Activities

- ECU and UNC-CH are working cooperatively with the “NC Eastern Region’s Water County” economic developers (Craven, Onslow, Pamlico, Jones, and Carteret) and the NC Eastern Region Partnership to develop the marine trades cluster in that region. We are both working on workforce development – ECU is focusing on military personnel in region who are transitioning out (including retirees) to encourage them to remain in the region and contribute to the trained workforce. (with College of Business, Dept. of Psychology, Office of Military Relations)

- Partnering with NC Rural Center on $2M. Kellogg Grant to facilitate rural entrepreneurism:
  - Developing networks for minority contractors, Latino and African-American entrepreneurs.
  - Responsible for evaluation of Entrepreneur Development System (along with Research Triangle International & Western Carolina University).

- Working with Martin County to determine viability of area for attracting retirees (including former residents, equestrian interests, middle-class retirees). (with Dept. of Sociology & Small Business and Technology Development Center)

- Assisted 4 towns submit $200,000 grant proposals to NC Rural Center Small Town’s Initiative Program (Williamston, Plymouth, Swan Quarter, and Farmville). (through ECU-Outreach Network)

- Working with 3 communities on revitalization projects, Downtown Greenville, Downtown Wilson, and Swan Quarter. (with Urban and Community Planning)

Individual Business Consulting

- Entrepreneurial Initiative (EI):
  - Working closely with three potential companies to develop projects (one Spin-in and two Spin-outs).
  - Sponsoring monthly Angel Investor Network meetings – on average 2 to 3 companies presented to investors at each meeting. Two companies received capital assistance this past quarter.

- Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC) office located under RDS. Over past 6 months:
  - 239 small businesses have received assistance
  - 21 business workshops have been offered