October 4, 2011

Fall 2011 Report from the Office of Research, Extension, Engagement and Economic Development

The CHASS REEED office's mission is to serve *all* CHASS faculty in their research and scholarship. The term “scholarship” is broadly defined, and ranges from research that is published in peer-reviewed journals and scholarly presses, to engaged scholarship that serves our community, the state, the nation, and the world. Our work is consistent with NC State’s commitment to public service in the land-grant tradition.

**Extension, Engagement and Economic Development**

Last year, Walt Wolfram worked with community volunteers to help mount the Wake County Spelling Bee on the NCSU campus. In 2012, this will be held at the McKimmon Center, in cooperation with the College of Education and community sponsors.

This year, we are again working with Walt Wolfram on his North Carolina Language and Life booth at the NC State Fair. We encourage faculty and friends of CHASS to stop by his fascinating exhibit and learn about our state’s rich culture and its dialects.

In June 2011, supported by Jim Zuiches, the Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, CHASS faculty members Jerrell Coggburn, Mary Tschirhart and Tom Birkland, joined Jose Picart from the Provost’s office at the annual Engagement Academy, conducted by Virginia Tech’s Center for Organizational and Technical Advancement (COTA). Partially because of this experience, Tom was asked to be a member of the Executive Committee of the University’s Extension Operations Council, which is currently working on the reorganization of extension and engagement functions that will occur upon Jim Zuiches’ retirement in December 2011.

An important activity of our office will be to continue to gather and share stories of individual faculty members’ engagement activities. Our college is particularly strong in this regard, as both CFACE and INPREE are part of CHASS. Beyond this, faculty members are engaged in outreach in ways that are sometimes not well publicized and known to the REEED office. We will be looking for ways to show the university just how much we do in our community, from the local to the international levels.

**Research**

A considerable amount of our work focuses on promoting externally funded research. The revenues from this research benefit everyone in CHASS--students, faculty, and staff--and remain important to our college. In FY 2010-11, CHASS faculty members received $4,751,211 in awards, an increase of 10% over the FY 2009-10 figure. And, even though we are only a little more than three months into FY 2011-12, CHASS faculty have already received over $7.6 million in awards; even if our college wins no more new awards this year, we will have increased awards by *60 percent* over FY 2010-11.

While this is good news, research awards tend to show “spiky” trends because these are multiple year projects. Expenditures provide another measure of funded research effort. In FY 2011-12, research expenditures were $4,411,062, or an increase of about 11%.

The remarkable growth of funding is attributable to many projects, including large projects headed by Sarah Bowen in Sociology and Anthropology, Ruth Gross in Foreign Language and Literature, and Ann Schulte in Psychology.

The Associate Dean for Research has laid out a series of activities for the 2011-12 fiscal year that we expect will increase external funding and enhance research, engagement, and extension. Some of these activities have begun, and others are upcoming and ongoing.

1. The CHASS research office now has a blog (<http://chassresearch.blogspot.com>) that lists funding opportunities, other news from the sponsored research world, and announcements of faculty achievements. We strongly encourage all CHASS faculty to subscribe to this blog. If faculty learn of news or opportunities that they would like to share on this blog, please forward these items to Tom Birkland for posting. Faculty may also subscribe to the list at that website.
2. The research office will be holding three lunchtime mini-workshops on grant writing, funding trends, and other news of interest to college researchers. All faculty, whether tenure-track or otherwise, are invited to attend. These will be held from noon to 1:30 in Withers 331. The dates and topics are  
     
   October 19 – Sponsored Research in the Humanities  
   October 27—Sponsored Research for New and Junior Faculty  
   November 2—Sponsored Research for the Social Sciences

Information on how to sign up for these mini-workshops will be distributed very soon.

1. We are continuing to support the college and the university through the work of the CHASS Research Committee, the CHASS EEED committee, and through managing the processes for extension and research awards, in which we have been remarkably successful this year.
2. With this in mind, I have formed two subcommittees to help advise the College on spending plans for a humanities endowment account and a textbook revenue account that will promote research and engagement. A process for submitting requests for these funds will be announced later this fall.
3. The Research Office will also be developing a process for announcing the availability of, and allocating, one-time funds that support the College’s research and engagement missions. This process will be put into place soon so that spending on worthwhile projects can begin quickly.
4. The Associate Dean will visit each department in the fall to meet the faculty, share what the REEED office is doing, and to seek suggestions on how the office can best promote research and engagement. Arrangements will be made soon.

The REEED office’s commitment is to work with faculty to make finding, applying for, and managing external funding more efficient, more supportive of the actual research, and more competitive so as to bring in additional resources to fund excellent scholarship. This commitment extends to all disciplines, and is irrespective of the size of the grant or fellowship.

**Related News**

Tom Birkland is serving as CHASS representative to the Academic Science Task Force, a group charged by the provost “to review possible structures and recommend a course of action that is aimed at having fewer but stronger academic units” in the natural and physical sciences.

Tom, along with Sam Snyder, Associate Dean in the College of Education, have recently been appointed co-chairs of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which reviews research from all NCSU units in which human subjects are studied.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Birkland and the staff of the Office for Research, Extension, Engagement and Economic Development: Missy Seate, Paula Braswell, and Joyce Christian.