

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

From: Tom Birkland
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Re: 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. Our work does focus on promoting sponsored research. The revenues from this research benefit everyone in CHASS--students, faculty, and staff--and remain important to our college. But our office does not and will not distinguish between "small" and "big" projects, and "low" versus "high" overhead rate projects. Our primary goal is to support *scholarship* in all its forms, because we know that the cost of research is not the only or best measure of the *value* of scholarship. We invite and encourage you to contact us at any time to find out how we can help you in your work.

After the end of this fiscal year, we will make available data on grant funding, F&A recovery, and the like. For the prior five years' worth of data, Mary Wyer's report from last fall remains useful.

Our main ongoing activities include

0. The development of a workshop series for Fall 2011 on finding funding and on working with our office to identify funders and to write grants to enhance funding success.
1. The development of systems for gathering and disseminating information on grants, contracts, fellowships, and other funding and scholarly opportunities. We seek to develop systems that gather all the good information you share with us, and that then target information to those who can use it.
2. Programs for introducing junior faculty to grant funded research, and to mentoring these faculty through the application process. Workshops and seminars are among possible ideas.
3. 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.
4. Visits to each department in CHASS this fall. I will be visiting a department meeting in the fall to introduce myself, let you know what we're doing in the office, and to seek your suggestions and advice on how we can help you.
5. Efforts to identify more funding opportunities for the humanities. I have been learning a great deal about humanities research, and will, by the fall, have several resources available to you to find funding support. Joyce Jones has already begun to develop and implement systems to help streamline funding searches.
6. Promoting the "EEED" part of our office's mission. CHASS has a remarkable record of extension, engagement, and service to the community, state, and nation--a record

that may not be fully understood even within our own college. Working with the EEED committee, we will be working to support extension and engagement, and to promote the work we are already doing. The economic development focus is not as clear, but I have been working with Tom White, an economic development official in Jim Zuchies' office, to help us tell the story of the importance of CHASS's work in economic development. The work we do is very highly valued by businesses the state seeks to attract to our region; we will work to show would-be businesses that NCSU has a great deal to offer both in and outside the STEM fields.

We are conscious of our office's role as a *service* organization. We realize that there is often a lot of red-tape, sometimes-odious regulatory requirements, and other bottlenecks that can sometimes make proposal writing and submission frustrating. Our goal is to work with you to make the process smoother, and to use our fantastic staff's experience to handle the paperwork so that you can do what you do best.

Finally, the REEED office, like all of you, is operating in a period of uncertainty as the budget process continues. What we do seem to know is that budgets at the state and federal level will be cut. But we also know is that we have a world-class faculty with a remarkable record of innovation, creativity, and scholarly success. Let us know what we can do to help you in any way with your scholarship, including research, service, extension, and the broad range of things we do as scholars and as leaders in the university and the community.