COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PHOENIX
Research Office

Strategic Planning 20/21
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Chris Glembotski, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research

Context: Beginning in November of 2020, in alignment with initiative R3 of the UA COMP Strategic Plan Initiative Charter, the Associate Dean for research engaged the UA COMP Research Senate in strategic planning with the broad goals of:

- reviewing services offered by the Research Office,

- assessing the effectiveness of these services,

- determining whether there are additional services that are needed, and/or

- whether some of the current services can be improved.

Objectives: With these goals in mind, 4 major objectives were developed that served as the foundation of how the research administration can adapt to meet the needs of the growing research enterprise at UA COMP.

Those objectives and the conclusions or action items of each are:

1. **trainees:** to better support our trainees by forming graduate student, postdoctoral fellow and junior faculty support systems/groups, **conclusions:**

   1A- **Research Office Web Site-** Revise the Research Office web page (an exercise called RO web site refresh 2021) to simplify the landing page and put links on it to more relevant subpages.

   1B- **Faculty Links on the RO Web Site-** Insert a "Faculty" link that goes to a list of all of our UA COMP research faculty, categorized by research interest area, with links to their bio pages,

   1C- **Post-doctoral Fellow Links on the RO Web Site-** Insert a "Post-doctoral researchers" link that goes to a list of all of our post-doctoral researchers, categorized as per their research interests then links to their bio pages,

   1D- **Graduate Student Links on the RO Web Site-** Insert a "Graduate students, link that goes to graduate student office and program links.

   1E- **Resources for Post-doctoral Researchers-** Insert a "Resources for post-doctoral researchers" link to a new page that has links to who to ask questions about onboarding, salary/stipends, health insurance, employment questions, postdoctoral association. This will also have links to Postdoctoral Affairs at UA.

1F- **Medical Student Links on the RO Web Site-** As for "medical student researchers" we will insert links to helpful web pages that address unique problems they encounter when undertaking their scholarly projects. One of our links will take them to the UA COMP Scholarly Project Office home page.

1G- **Schedule for Future Updates of the RO Web Site-** Update/refresh the Research Office web site on an annual basis, on or before April 1.

2. **research technologies:** to formalize and standardize processes by which we discuss, evaluate and decide on the growth of current cores, and the development of new cores, and whether we might consider virtual cores that use technologies in individual investigator labs.
   conclusions:

   2A- **Core Facility Annual Reports-** Core annual reports addressing
   - core budget (revenues/expenditures; COMP subsidization)
   - major equipment status (i.e. operation, rate-of-use, projected function)
   - update facility descriptions for use in grant applications
   - account for those trained in cores
   - consider a graduate course on research methods to include cores

   2B- **Core Facility Annual Survey-** of COMP researchers addressing
   - whether we have sufficient core personnel/scientist time
   - current core usage (limitations in expertise or sample processing)
   - current core performance
   - current core enhancements/changes
   - new cores for the future

   survey will be reviewed by the research senate to seek recommendations that will be reported to the Dean

   2C- **Links for UA, ASU and NAU Core Facilities-** Research Office web page refresh 2021 will include links to COMP, as well as other UA, ASU and NAU cores

3. **enhancing internal research funding mechanisms:** to streamline the processes by which internal research support funds are awarded.
   conclusions:

   3B- **Internal Funds Offered by the UA COMP Research Office-** Since the VRP funding opportunity will not be renewed, the research office will offer funding to be used for departmental or center support of seminar series and retreats, as well as for PI bridge funding. These funds do not include personnel. Applications for this support can be found on the UA COMP research office home page, click on "Request for Support".

4. **improving external research funding acquisition:** to conduct regularly scheduled roundtable discussions of how to improve funding success rates, retreats for researchers to share successful funding application approaches, as well as clinical and basic research ideas, opportunities and challenges.
conclusions:

4A- **Research Proposal Development Office-** It was concluded that the current "Research Proposal Development" assistance offered in the UA COMP Research Office by Dr. Carol Haussler, works very well and should be continued, if not expanded if/when the need arises. To take advantage of this valuable service, indicate "YES" as the answer to the following question in the "Intent to Submit a Grant/Contract Application" on the Research Office web site.

4B- **Pre-submission Peer Review Process-** The "Pre-submission Peer Review" process offered by the Research Office was deemed to be a reasonable concept in principle, however, the process is much too complicated and the timeline is much too short for grant-writers to implement suggested changes. Moreover, it is apparent that this process has actually never been used by grant-preparers, further emphasizing its lack of utility. Accordingly, it was decided that the current "Pre-submission Peer Review" process will be replaced the "Grant-writer's Forum/Brainstorm" process, which will involve mentors working individually with grant-writers to develop the scientific aspects of applications; in this way, it will complement and in process it will precede PI engagement with the "Research Proposal Development" office.

4C- **Grant-writer's Forum and Brainstorm-** The "Grant-writer's Forum and Brainstorm process will entail <u>standing monthly meetings</u> established by the Associate Dean for Research where PIs will be encouraged to work with the ADR and/or other participating mentors to begin developing their hypotheses and specific aims as much in advance of the anticipated grant submission date, but no less than 3 months in advance. This Forum will also be the venue for those PIs who are revising proposals for resubmission and who will review the summary statement or other previous proposal reviews with mentors in order to dissect reviews with goals of responding to critiques with either additional experiments/data or with additional explanations, both of which would be included in the resubmission.