**Illinois State University**

**Academic Affairs**

**FY20 Planning Document**

**Office of the Associate Vice President for Research**

*Research and Sponsored Programs*

*Research Ethics and Compliance*

*Technology Transfer Office*

*Educate·Connect·Elevate* emphasizes the critical roles that research, scholarship, and creative activities have in the mission and vision of Illinois State University. This strategic plan also calls for enhanced innovation and collaboration, along with enriched engagement through partnerships, outreach, engagement, and research. The goals and objectives outlined in this planning document, which are supplemented by the planning documents from the other units reporting to the AVP for Research, align with all seven of the University’s core values:

* Learning and Scholarship, by definition;
* Individualized attention, through the 1:1 interactions between faculty and students that take place in scholarly and creative activities and in collaborations with community partners;
* Diversity and Inclusion, through engagement of students from diverse backgrounds in meaningful scholarly, outreach, and innovation opportunities, and through research projects in cultural understanding and social justice;
* Respect, through collaboration and the exchange of ideas that are essential aspects of scholarly and creative activities;
* Civic Engagement, through the active learning experiences, community outreach, and partnerships that occur during research, creative, and innovation activities;
* Collaboration, through researchers’ and innovators’ interactions with partners internal and external to the University;
* Integrity, through the ethical standards required to conduct quality research and creative activities.

Furthermore, these goals and objectives directly promote or support all four strategic directions of the University and many of the objectives and actions supporting those strategic directions.

**I. Major Objectives for FY20**

**Objective 1. Continue implementing the current Research Strategic Plan, and consider refinements to make it more closely align with *Educate****·****Connect****·****Elevate.***

* Further develop policies, programs, processes, and administrative structures that support faculty, student, and staff in their research and creative efforts, and that align with the Research Strategic Plan
* Work with the University Research Council, the College Research Coordinators, faculty, and student researchers to identify and prioritize unmet needs with regards to research and creative activities
* Assess the progress made under the current Research Strategic Plan and begin the process of updating the strategic plan to align with *Educate·Connect·Elevate*

**Objective 2. Expand the role of the Research Office in promoting faculty and student research and creative activities, and continue the growth in researcher support services**

* + - * Create an identity for the Research Office that promotes its goal of providing multifaceted support to faculty, students, and staff involved in research and creative activities, and establish a “one-stop-shop” for faculty and staff working on research initiatives on campus
      * Work toward a comprehensive website for research that becomes a reliable, one-stop resource for faculty and student researchers
      * In partnership with the Office of the Provost, create guidelines for research collaborations to become research centers; develop seed funding and a pathway to sustainability for nascent centers
      * Build educational outreach in all areas: grants, compliance, and entrepreneurship
      * Develop and implement more transparent policies and procedures that ensure that all units use recovered indirect cost funds to promote research, scholarship, and creative activities; including full documentation of policies and procedures in the grant and compliance areas
      * Develop processes for ongoing assessment of compliance, from post-approval monitoring (IRB and IACUC) to congruence reviews

**Objective 3.** **Strengthen support for faculty research and creative activities**

* Explore sustainable methods to provide startup funds to new faculty, including both the large startup packages and the smaller seed funds that are critical to all faculty as they launch their academic careers
  + - * Investigate alternate funding models and seek new sources of funding for University Research Grants; leverage these new funds to support student research and cross-disciplinary and cross-college collaborations
* Create an “RSP Fellows” educational and certification program for pre-tenure faculty that provides them with the skills required for grant submission and management

**Objective 4. Champion student research and creative activities**

* Reestablish an undergraduate research fellowship program that provides stipends to students engaged in research and creative activities
* Launch the Office of Student Research and Innovation
* Provide educational opportunities for student researchers, including Responsible Conduct of Research

**Objective 5. Encourage and expand external partnerships that foster innovation and enrich engagement**

* Establish ISU as a hub of the Illinois Innovation Network, greatly expanding faculty and student access to collaborations and resources well beyond those available at ISU alone
* Increase the support of faculty innovation and entrepreneurship
* In partnership with community organizations, internal ISU partners, and donors, work towards the creation of a faculty/student/community startup incubator that can develop new technologies and approaches for addressing societal needs
* Build consensus around the need for a shared makerspace through collaborations with area educational institutions

**II. Permanent Funding Requests**

**Priority 1. Increase of University Research Grant (URG) Funding.** *Special Note: This request is made on behalf of the University Research Council (see attached letter) and the colleges.*The buying power provided by URGs is $500,000 less (in today's dollars) than it was in FY96, despite the fact that research expectations for faculty are higher than ever. In order to provide seed funding for grant applications, encourage interdisciplinary work, and to incentivize participation of students in research, we request a $675,000 increase, bringing total annual URGs to $1,000,000. This will make ISU more competitive in attracting and retaining faculty, as our internal funding pales in comparison to our peer institutions. Of the $675,000, we would like to earmark funds for:

-Interdisciplinary (inter-college) projects: $150,000

-Direct support of students involved in projects: $150,000

**Request: $675,000/yr, potentially staged over 3-5 years.**

**Priority 2. ISU Startup Incubator**. ISU will be joining the Illinois Innovation Network, and has a good chance of obtaining capital funding ($5-10M) for a startup incubator and makerspace. However, this funding does not come with operating funds. CeMaST will staff the makerspace, but funding is needed for a director (est. $120,000) and support staff member with accounting expertise ($55,000) for the incubator. Operating funds are also requested ($50,000). Research and Graduate Studies is also committing funding (IDC, not permanent dollars) to the project. **Request: $225,000/yr (with additional funds provided by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies’ IDC).**

**Priority 3. Associate Director of Award Management.** The Award Management Section of RSP has grown recently with the addition of Grants Accounting to the office. The introduction of this new staff requires a new supervisory level employee to be hired in RSP. The expectations will be for the successful candidate to support the award management team on a daily basis, this would include policy and process management, staff supervision, and faculty/campus outreach. **Request: $75,000 (with additional funds for higher salary provided by RSP, est. up to $10,000)**

**Priority 4. Office of Student Research and Innovation.** This funding will provide supplemental funding for the summer salary and academic year buyout of the Director of the newly-established Office of Student Research and Innovation. **Request: $25,000 (with additional funds provided by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies)**

**Priority 5. Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) and Undergraduate Creative Expression Fellowship (UCEF).** We propose to support the student research experience directly through undergraduate research and creative expression fellowships, a student support mechanism that is typically funded by the central administrations of our peer institutions. We are requesting 25 $4500 summer awards ($4,000 stipend and $500 in travel/supplies) and 25 $1,250 awards each semester ($1,000 stipend and $250 in travel/supplies, total $62,500 fall/spring). Note that this funding is separate from the request for additional URG funding, as these awards are made to the students, whereas URG funds are awarded to faculty. **Request: $175,000.** *(Note that funds are not required in FY20 because of carried over funds from FY19. We wish to retain this item on the list of permanent requests, however.)*

**III. Strategic Budgeted Carryover**

**Item 1. CeMaST Director Salary, July 1 to Aug. 15, $18,500.** There will be a 6-week overlap period between the outgoing CeMaST director and the incoming director. The funds available for this overlap are FY19 funds, and so we are requesting to using them immediately in FY20.

**Item 2. Office of Student Research and Innovation (OSRI), $87,500.** These were funds allocated for FY19, but the OSRI director position was filled later than anticipated, and therefore the funds cannot be used until FY20. These funds are to be used for direct student support, but the new director must establish the program before the funds are distributed.

**Item 3. University Research Grants (URGs), $150,000.** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies added $150,000 in IDC funds to the URG pool in order to fund grant-related URG proposals, but since URGs are funded the FY following the application year, the funds cannot be distributed to the units until July 1, 2019.

**IV. Provost Enhancement Requests**

**Priority 1. Research Office Construction, Suite A of CPU.** The integration of Grants Accounting into the RSP, combined with the desired co-location of Research Ethics and Compliance with RSP requires that we find additional space within Suite A of College Place Uptown. Estimated costs of the construction is $65,268 plus HVAC and utilities relocation. **Request: $65,000 (with remainder to be paid by RSP)**

**Priority 2. GA Support for Research Centers.** The research centers reporting to the AVP for Research and Graduate Studies are requesting GA help for social media, outreach, and miscellaneous research needs. We would like to hire 3 GAs to assist with these needs. We view this as shared seed funding, with the hope that as centers work toward self-sufficiency they can contribute to these costs. **Request: $25,000 (plus $12,500 from Research and Graduate Studies)**

**Priority 3. Consultant review of Human Subjects Research program.** Over the past 2-3 years, we have made several administrative and procedural changes to the Research Ethics and Compliance office. To find additional efficiencies and to have an analysis of whether we are meeting the goals of PI support while providing protection to the research participants, we are requesting to have a consultant review our structure and current operating practices. The result will be better support for researchers and improved compliance and consistency. **Request: $25,000 (with overage amounts, est. $10,000, to be paid by Research and Graduate Studies)** *Note that actual costs will depend on hours spent on the project by the consultants. Exact amount of the engagement is unknown at this time.*

**V. Personnel Requests: Tenure Track Faculty**

None

**VI. Personnel Requests: Tenure Track Faculty-Non-reappointment or tenure-denial/death**

None

**VI. Facilities Requests**

None