

Division Report



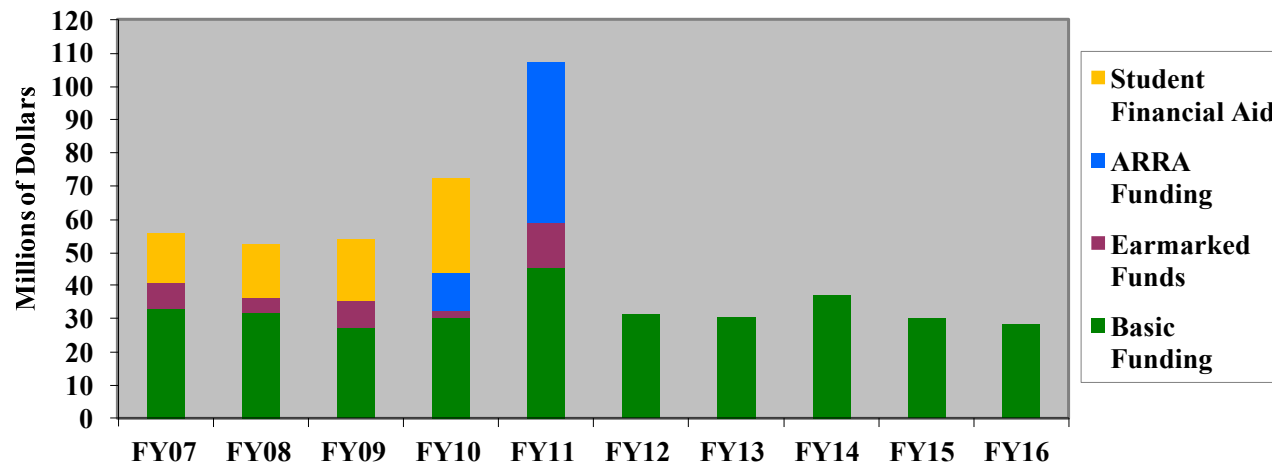
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August 25, 2016
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Mission

- The Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships (RIPS) promotes research, scholarship, and artistry as well as innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Scholarship and innovation are essential for student and faculty recruitment and retention.
 - Both undergraduate and graduate students are attracted to cutting-edge and relevant scholarship.
 - The same can be said for faculty – an acknowledged climate of support for scholarship and innovation improves recruitment and retention.
- As competition for students and faculty grows, research and innovation are key characteristics distinguishing NIU from our regional university neighbors.

Funding Trends

- **Sponsored funding at NIU averages ~ \$30M annually.**
- **With the exception of a one large state grant in FY14, there has been a general five-year decline with the FY2016 funding level at \$28M.**
- **In FY2016, research funding was about one-third the total.**
- **Downward trend has occurred as pressure on federal and state funding for scholarship and service has increased, resulting in stronger competition for fewer dollars at a time when NIU faculty numbers have declined.**



- **The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education places NIU in the category of Research Universities. A number of factors contribute to the Carnegie ranking with research and development expenditures and the number of terminal degrees among the most important.**

Response

- **A proactive program is required to maintain NIU's research and innovation programs and their positive impact on the**
 - **university's distinction and reputation**
 - **retention and recruitment of students and faculty**
- **Over the past year, RIPS has taken a two-pronged approach to promoting research and innovation.**
 - **At little cost, working with Provost's Office and Administration and Finance to reduce policy and procedural impediments to research.**
 - **Assuring direct support is available for faculty to maintain and initiate new scholarship and innovation.**

Removing Impediments

- The table shows the highest ranked policy research impediments listed by the recently chartered Research and Innovation Advisory Council RIAC.

Policy Impediment	Status
1. No return of F&A to PI directly	Currently implementing a new F&A distribution which invests more in the PI, Department, and College
2. High cost and long lead-time for hiring postdocs	Working with Human Resources on have clarified policy and significantly streamlined procedure
3. Difficult to confirm matching funds from university for grant proposals	SPA updating practices
4. More formal mentoring with quality feedback on proposals or research plans	Further developing PI Academy professional development series
5. Difficult to get travel advance rather than reimburse	AF considering options to accommodate travel

- The ultimate aim is to eliminate or mitigate all policy impediments, improving institutional efficiency, and, in so doing, assuring faculty their scholarship is vital to the mission of the university.

Direct Support

- **Four programs make up the framework:**
 - **Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA)** provides administrative support required to secure and manage sponsored funding.
 - **Office of Innovation (OI)** assists faculty and staff with development and protection of intellectual property.
 - **Office of Research Compliance, Integrity, and Safety (ORCIS)**, ensures the University maintains ethical principles; compliance with federal, state, and university regulations governing research; and safe laboratory practice.
 - **Office of Federal Relations (OFR)** represents Northern Illinois University in interactions with members of Congress and executive branch officials.
- **SPA, OI, ORCIS and OFR constitute an essentially obligatory framework for institutional scholarship and innovation by ensuring regulatory and compliance requirements are met.**

Faculty Research and Development Support program (FR&DS)

- **Four FR&DS programs are supported in any budget scenario, with their magnitude and reach adjusted to yearly conditions.**
 - Competitive Programs offers new faculty a comprehensive introduction to resources and grantsmanship; program and travel funds for faculty to initiate, conduct, and complete research and scholarly work; and recognition for our most accomplished researchers, scholars, and artists.
 - Core Facilities ensure instrumentation, analytic capabilities, and high performance computing are available for research and scholarship.
 - Research Centers offer resources and personnel for research efforts to expand their influence and mission.
 - Finally, all faculty require startup and cost sharing, provided by Faculty Development to initiate and maintain their research and scholarly activities.
- **Over the past year emphasis has been placed on professional development through updating and extension of the Principal Investigator Academy and broadening of the instrumentation program through an industry partnership.**

Return and Re-investment

- **Return on investment excellent:** In FY15 NIU received \$30M in sponsored funding of which \$4M in indirect costs were recovered, compared to an FR&DS investment of around \$1.5M.
- **Indirect costs allocated for operation of RIPS and reinvestment in research and scholarship.**
- **Increased investment in FR&DS increases research and, again, indirect costs. The external grants and reinvestment of F&A establishes a “virtuous circle” that accelerates NIU’s research and scholarship.**
- **An excellent example is the Accelerator Research Concentration of Excellence (CRE) initiated in 2014 in collaboration with Fermilab.**
 - **External funding attracted by the CRE has generated more funding than currently invested in the center. At a cost of ~\$1M to date, the accelerator science CRE has already guaranteed about \$3M in collaborative funding and \$2.7M in external funding**
 - **Through the CRE, NIU has one of the largest accelerator science programs in the country and international recognition.**
- **The university has a number of areas of research and scholarship that could develop into strong CREs with immediate impact on institutional research intensity.**

Looking Forward

- **The Program Prioritization Task Force recommendations strongly endorsed expanding University scholarship and innovation.**
- **Specific recommendations for RIPS included enhancement of FR&DS, SPA, and OI which would ensure faculty have the resources and institutional support to conduct and expand their scholarship and pursue innovation.**
- **In response to the recommendations, RIPS has presented a Program Prioritization plan to President Baker which features expansion of FR&DS (including additional CREs), SPA, and OI such that the total RIPS budget would equal 2% of the full university budget.**

Closing Comments

- **RIPS continues to provide infrastructure for supporting research and innovation**
- **As resources are available, directly supports research and innovation.**
- **Over the past year, considerable progress has been made reducing impediments to research.**
- **Expansion of key programs, recommended by the Program Prioritization Taskforces, would significantly enhance the university research and innovation mission and our ability to attract students and faculty.**