



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

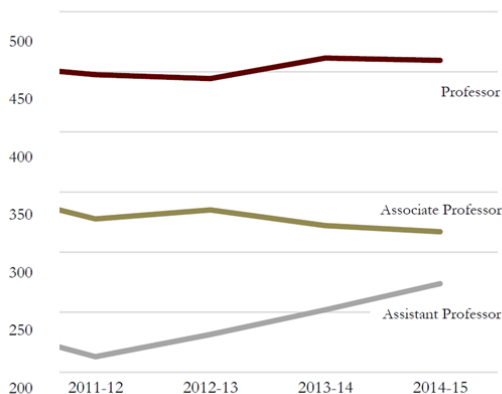
Greetings,

As we are now well into the Fall semester I would like to take a few minutes, as I do each year, to connect with you to review some of the activities that have transpired over the past year as well as to alert you to some new initiatives that will assist you in your research, scholarship and creative activities.

About ten days ago I had the opportunity to attend the exhibition of five of our Department of Art faculty at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota. *Entitled "Back and Forth: Thinking in Paint"* the exhibition is advertised as a dialog between contemporary painting and The Ringling permanent collection. This is the first exhibition at The Ringling Museum of any of our current FSU faculty and it included works by Professors Carrie Ann Baade, Ray Burggraf, Lilian Garcia-Roig, Mark Messersmith, and Judy Rushin. While I think we have all enjoyed the positive impact of their work in various campus venues, it really was quite a treat to see it in dedicated museum space. If you are going to be in Sarasota in the next week I would encourage you to carve out a little time to visit the exhibition.

Looking back at the year behind us, I recently shared with the Board of Trustees how impressed we should all be with what FSU faculty are accomplishing despite the challenging landscape placed before us. Federal funding for extramural research was curtailed as a result of continuing resolutions last fiscal year and yet our FSU faculty continues to persevere, both applying for and receiving more awards this past year than in any time in our history. This past year those faculty relying on extramural funding for their scholarship generated just over \$200 million dollars in federal, state and private

Nine-Month Filled Faculty Positions by Rank



foundation grants and contracts. I find that very encouraging, considering our new faculty hires have predominately been assistant professors. This tells me that our investment in strategic hires and replacement of faculty positions lost during the recession is paying off as the new faculty joining the established faculty in writing competitive proposals. It also tells me that all of our faculty are finding FSU to be a place where research and creative activities are nurtured and encouraged.

Our [Office of Proposal Development](#) (OPD) is one of the newer ways my office is reaching out to assist new and existing faculty. Staff in

that office reach out to all new faculty every year to help guide them through the often times confusing world of grant writing. In fact, last year the OPD connected with over 650 faculty on campus through trainings, workshops, one-on-one meetings and aiding in grant inquires and searches. In the past month , and as a result of faculty requests, they have held two workshops for faculty and staff—one specifically for Arts and Humanities faculty and the other to introduce NIH ASSIST to faculty and staff. I hope if you have ideas for meetings, trainings, visits and other activities to assist faculty, you will contact that office.

In my letter to you last year, I discussed the new Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building (IRCB) that will be built on our Southwest campus near the College of Engineering. At that time it did not actually have a name and we were at the beginning stages of planning. I am happy to report that much has transpired since that time, primarily as a result of a lot of faculty input and effort. This building, which will have a focus on interdisciplinary efforts in the physical sciences and engineering, will encompass 110,000+ sq. ft., will be populated by collaborators from various departments and will have unique core facilities including a nanofabrication facility. By mid-March, the planning will be complete and the project will be bid-ready. As evidenced by our efforts on the Southwest campus with this new building, my desire to see more multidisciplinary efforts is strong. That is why I am championing another similar effort our main campus.

This past year, through the FSU Research Foundation, we purchased property located across from the medical school. This is a first step in our plan to develop a facility for multidisciplinary activities—this time with a focus on research in the biomedical and health sciences. With recent hires in a number of relevant departments and colleges (e.g. Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Arts and Sciences and Social Sciences and Public Policy) we are seeing more and more interdisciplinary efforts taking place. And, we know that in order to continue to grow in this area, having an interdisciplinary research facility for use by faculty from a variety of departments and colleges will be essential. As with any large endeavor, this is not something that will happen overnight but this purchase will allow us to start planning for construction of the significant additional research and laboratory space that will be needed.

On the federal front, many of you are already aware of the [new federal mandate](#) to increase public access to the results of federally funded research. This new unfunded mandate requires researchers, as well as the universities where they are housed, to become fully compliant with this new policy. Our office has been working with the University libraries on implementation plans with a goal of minimizing impact on faculty and staff while at the same time complying with the new directives. Directly involved in this issue for the Office of Research is our new Director of Compliance, [Diana Key](#). Diana was brought on board this past year and is specifically tasked with the oversight of all research related compliance issues to be sure that the FSU research enterprise continues to run smoothly and in line with any and all directives placed upon us. We will keep in contact with you about the implementation of this new mandate and I encourage you to direct any concerns or questions, on any aspect of compliance, to Diana.

Also relatively new to our office is [Michael Frame](#), the Director of Federal Relations for the Office of Research who joined us last October when his predecessor retired. While

his main office is in Washington D.C., he is on campus regularly and is working with faculty on a number of fronts to assist with federal issues. If you plan to visit DC to meet with a program officer, or need guidance on a federal research issue, I hope you will not hesitate to contact Mike for assistance. He is very knowledgeable and is ready and eager to assist.

Finally, our [Office of Commercialization](#) (OC) has undergone significant changes this past year following a number of retirements. The office is now under the Direction [Brent Edington](#) who brings a wealth of experience in both tech transfer and the start-up arena from his positions at two other North American universities. The entire office has now been consolidated from three locations into Dittmer 312 to permit easier access by faculty. The OC manages projects that range from the hard sciences and engineering to activities in music and theatre. The staff work directly with faculty, staff and students and the process begins with the submission of an invention and work disclosures. When disclosures show a potential for commercial success, the OC staff seek intellectual property protection (copyrights and patents) for the research and/or creative work, then attempt to identify commercial partners to negotiate a license and options agreements for continued development. Please contact Brent and his staff to get started.

My objective is to see that the [Office of Research](#) here at Florida State University provides outstanding tools, expertise and guidance to faculty so that you can be successful in your research pursuits. We strive to do this with a minimum of bureaucracy. If you have any suggestions or issues you would like to discuss please feel free to contact me at gary@fsu.edu.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Gary K. Ostrander, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
President, FSU Research Foundation