

# OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

## STRATEGIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 20, 2010

Present: Chairperson Robert Bernhard, Brian Blake, Mark Cummings, Peg Brinig, Richard Cox, Darren Davis, Jean Gorman, Terri Hall, Rick Hilliard, Roger Huang, John LoSecco, Dan Myers, Jarek Nabrzyski, Karen Pace, Liz Rulli, John Stamper, Greg Sterling, Ann Strasser

Absent: Jan Botz, Sunny Boyd, Julia Braungart-Rieker, Bruce Bunker, Peter Burns, Tom Cosimano, Melanie DeFord, Agustin Fuentes, Tom Guinan, George Keegan, John Nagle, Tracey Poston, Ramachandran Ramanan, Robert Stevenson, Richard Taylor, Jennifer Younger

The meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. and the agenda was reviewed. There were no additions to the agenda.

- I. **Review of March 26, 2010 Minutes** – The minutes of the March 26, 2010 meeting were reviewed. One change was noted to a staff member's name and the minutes were approved.
- II. **Announcements** – The Graduate Studies & Research Advisory Council was on campus April 7-9 for a Spring meeting. The meeting was well attended with great discussion. The Council toured four laboratories while on campus.
- III. **University Institute** –Dr. Bernhard shared his vision for developing the University's research programs that he had upon his arrival on campus in 2007. The first phase was streamlining the processes for acquiring and managing grants. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase was building the capacity for the Centers & Institutes to compete for funding nationally and creating inter-institutional partnering. The recent two rounds of University funding have assisted in making excellent progress in this stage. The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase is at an Institutional Level, developing a self-sustaining, research institute that would give Notre Dame a voice on a much larger scale. The University contracted a consultant to assist in looking into opportunities for such Institutes. Over the course of several months of meetings with faculty and influential alumni, a list of prospective institute ideas was developed. The ideas were evaluated, with mission fit and potential impact as the two strongest criteria. Three ideas were considered in Tier One, with an additional three in Tier Two. A decision will be made by mid-summer on which ideas will be recommended for further review.
- IV. **Sharing** – The attendees reported various ongoing activities.
- V. **Adjournment and Next Meeting** – There being no further business brought to this Committee; the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the SRC will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bernhard  
Vice President for Research

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