



April 2, 2012

Dr. Jere Morehead
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

RE: The Teaching-Research Nexus and The Role of Departments, Centers and Institutes

Dear Provost Morehead,

Thank you for your continued support of the Teaching Academy's Annual Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium. We all very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in this valuable forum.

Our group discussions centered on the possible roles that Departments, Centers and Institutes, can play in strengthening links between research, teaching and learning, both within and across disciplines, and throughout the University community. Our proposed recommendations focus on potential programs and policies, as well as increased communication efforts.

Policy:

- Charge a working group with exploring the teaching credit model, promotion and tenure, as well as joint appointments across Departments, Centers and Institutes. The goal of the working group would be to discover ways to facilitate interdisciplinary initiatives that promote enhanced research and teaching integration. Low cost. Doable.
- Recommend that proposals for new Centers and Institutes at the University include information about prospective research and teaching opportunities that the Centers and Institutes will promote. Low cost. Doable.
- Encourage Departments to examine the teaching-research nexus within their programs and the extent of research learning that is embedded in instructional programs. Courses could be identified as high in research learning. Low cost. Doable.

Communication:

- UGA should help develop a database that lists faculty willing to include undergraduate students in their research. This would include a brief description of the Departments, Centers and Institutes, their faculties' research emphases, and links to participating faculty members' web sites. This database could be made available through CURO. Low-cost. Doable.
- Ensure that undergraduate student Advisors are made aware of the database and other undergraduate-oriented research resources. Low cost. Doable.

Programs:

- Promote strengthened relationships between OVPI and OVPR, to facilitate the creation of collaborative training opportunities for faculty who actively seek to integrate teaching and research. Low cost. Doable.
- Training opportunities should be available to faculty seeking to develop new courses that incorporate research and are potentially interdisciplinary in nature. Training opportunities should be available for individual or team efforts. Incentives for such programs might include release time from current teaching responsibilities or supplemental income. Inclusion of research scientists and postdocs is highly recommended. Medium-cost. Doable.
- Encourage programs to include inquiry-based courses in degree requirements. Both the Franklin College of Arts and Science, as well as the College of Family and Consumer Sciences are willing to undertake this as a Pilot project. Low cost. Doable.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mark Huber and Libby Morris (Facilitators)

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