

Promote Active Learning (Goal 1E)

Course transformation:

Identified the following departments and schools to work on collaborative course and curriculum transformation: Math, Biology, Geography, Geology, Psychology, Physics, Film & Media Studies, Chemistry, and Engineering. Criteria for selecting target departments include the presence of courses with high enrollment, gateway course, and faculty support/readiness to embrace course transformation. Next year, all math and natural sciences will be engaged in course transformation through the appointment teaching post-docs and the work of the C21 team.

Appointed a Course Redesign Team to set goals, targets and metrics for measuring the impact of course redesign end of semester. EAB worked with Deans to use analytics workbooks to identify bottlenecks in progression through programs, supporting programs as they perform their own curriculum analysis.

Math instruction:

Representatives of basic math instruction at KU had site visits to Alabama and Arizona State University to explore different ways to provide instruction. The Math department is also working with the Personalized Learning Consortium of APLU to redesign Math 104. The resequencing of Math 121 and 122 to create a three-course calculus sequences was completed in Winter 2014 and will be launched Fall 2015.

Strengthen Research and Scholarship (Goal 3B)

Strategic Initiative Grant applications:

Nineteen Level I proposals were received for the February 16 deadline, the largest number of proposals received since the beginning of the grant program. Submissions include five proposals revised from the Fall 2014 submissions. Three new Level II strategic initiative grants have been received up to this point in the spring semester. Two have already been funded and the third is under review.

Development of clusters and strategic initiative themes:

- a. The Research Development Office (Rummer, Bergmann) held a workshop on March 9 for faculty interested in a new NSF Funding Initiative: "Innovations at the Nexus of Food-Energy-Water Systems (INFEWS)." In FY15, NSF will commit \$5 million to a range of activities that will help build a research community and define critical research challenges. For FY16, NSF is seeking \$75 million to begin full funding for the program, which is projected to run through 2021. The workshop provided an overview of the INFEWS initiative and details of FY15 funding opportunities.
- b. The Research Development Office (Rummer, Bergmann) along with Associate Vice Chancellor Heppert have worked with Luke Huan (EECS) and other faculty to form a Big Data Steering Committee. The RDO is also working with faculty on a workshop on STEM programs and funding, a pop-up Research Program related to Tech 2070, and a conference proposal with the School of Architecture, Design, and Planning.

- c. Professor Mary Hill, with the support of the Office of Research, will be holding a meeting for all new water and energy cluster faculty in early April.
- d. The Office of Research has expanded initiatives to secure Department of Defense funding by sponsoring faculty attendance at open houses held by the Army and Navy Research Laboratories, negotiating a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with the Army Research Lab, securing the services of a consultant to assist with entrée into the Department of Defense for research contracts, and accepting the role of leader in the Smart Defense Consortium. The latter involves a group of 6 research institutions and 9 defense contractors.
- e. KU Innovation and Collaboration Proof of Concept Funding: KU researchers submitted applications on March 2 for the Proof of Concept Fund, which supports KU technologies that are near the commercialization stage and could become marketplace solutions in the near future. The program, now in its third year, seeks to advance the development of novel applied technologies that have near-term potential for licensing and commercialization within three years of funding. The fund does not support basic research. It does advance technologies that have already shown commercial appeal and for which the university has already applied for intellectual property protection. This fund is open to KU researchers from all areas of innovation and technology, including electronics, software, communications, life sciences and engineering. Awards generally will be in the range of \$15,000 to \$50,000, and the total number of awards will depend on the number and quality of applications submitted.
- f. Water Charrette: “Food Deserts”: To provide a more locally-resilient society that is less dependent upon large-scale conventional food production, the 2015 Water Charrette on January 22-24 challenged groups of students to work collaboratively to propose innovative prototypes and/or systems through a brief but intense design workshop process. The goal of the Water Charrette: Food Deserts was for teams of students to propose and design for sustainable futures whereby innovative concepts of water efficiency can better support urban farms seeking to provide greater accessibility to healthy foods. Open to all KU students, the Water Charrette promoted interdisciplinary teamwork as students work to solve a common problem.

Foundation Professors:

Foundation Professors Beth Bailey (History) and Dennis O’Rourke (Anthropology) have now accepted offers. Offers have been extended to three other candidates, four candidates have had first visits to KU, and first visits are currently planned in late March / April for four other candidates.

Engage Scholarship for Public Impact (Goals 4B & 4C)

Entrepreneurial activity plan: Develop a comprehensive plan to engage the KU community in entrepreneurial activities

A comprehensive entrepreneurial activity plan has been conceived. It is in its infancy for launch. This plan has a three pronged approach: 1) Developing tools and templates to ease licensing; 2) Providing assistance in raising first money; 3) Education and exposure in entrepreneurship for faculty, postdocs and students.

Expand commercialization: Expand the commercialization of KU technologies and the incubation of KU start-ups

The Proof of Concept program was revamped to focus on the KUIC IP portfolio movement to commercialization. The call was open during the past quarter. KUIC received 20 applications covering both campuses. Reviewers are being assigned now for funding in May 2015.

An emphasis has been placed on the development of existing tools to further efforts to market technologies. KUIC already had a CRM in place (Salesforce) to support corporate partnerships and Hubspot, an inbound marketing platform. KUIC partnered with KUCR to bring marketing expertise from the research computing group to integrate the two platforms to create a powerful inbound marketing platform for the intellectual property portfolio.

KUIC has developed an eCommerce platform to support dissemination of KU research through commercialization. Through our work in pipeline development, we have met faculty who have educational modules, manuals, and other tools that would be best licensed by way of a click through license, payment by credit card and download model.

KUIC is launching a *Technology Tuesdays* program to further expose potential licensees to the KU IP portfolio. This event will also highlight KU commercialization activity and provide a networking opportunity.

Business & external partners: Build high-level partnerships with business and external partners to advance key partners

A search expertise functionality project is in development. This will allow companies, economic development groups and other external constituencies the ability to easily search KU's research expertise.

The Comprehensive Industry Engagement (CIE) group meetings are the large meeting of all divisions at KU that work with companies. Each meeting now focuses on a KU-wide approach to a specific one or two companies.

Innovation fair: Create an innovation fair for students

KUIC is partnering with UpGlobal and the Sprint Accelerator in Kansas City to host a startup weekend at KU focused on driving new student led entrepreneurial ideas. This has the benefit of having an educational component as well as a judging of best ideas for a new company. We have learned that the City of Lawrence is also planning a startup weekend in the Fall. We have elected to partner with the City and hold a single event on campus. This will also be in partnership with the business school.

Develop Infrastructure and Resources (Goal 5)

SuccessFactors talent development system was activated on January 2, 2015; senior leader training and support for the system is on-going.

The performance appraisal module was activated for all Administration & Finance employees (approximately 1100) on January 5. As of mid-March, approximately 900 of the Administration & Finance employees have been trained on the performance management system. Calendar year 2015

performance management will be tied to the new performance appraisal tool. Goal setting is scheduled to be complete by the end of the quarter.

The learning management module was activated campus wide on January 5 2015. Migration of learning content into the SuccessFactors LMS is approximately 10% complete.

Develop Excellence in People (Goal 5B)

The faculty awards recognition page (“Faculty Excellence”) and the KU awards information website are now live.

Since last reporting two more New Faculty Colloquia were held: one, last semester, on Undergraduate Studies support services, and one this semester on Graduate Studies. A final colloquium is scheduled for later this spring on raising research visibility through open access.

In early March a “check-in” for Associate Professors participating in our writing accountability pilot program was held. Participants reported generally very positive feedback on the program thus far, citing greater productivity, more frequent writing, changing writing habits, and increased creativity.

A New Media Symposium is being planned for 2015-16, bringing together scholars in CLAS and Journalism to share their research on media understood broadly to include social media, public dissemination of information shaping crucial debates, health communications, communicating big data, etc. It is to be hoped that the Symposium will stimulate interest and ideas in future collaborative research. The steering committee is now assembled and the first meeting is being scheduled.

The reorganized Senior Administrative Fellows program continues; recent topics have included Implementing an Institutional Vision, Aligning Unit Goals with Institutional Vision, and Building Culture.

The restructured Chairs and Directors Leadership Development program (workshops, roundtables) has likewise continued, with topics including using the PTTR/PTR process to stimulate effective mentoring and provide needed faculty support. An upcoming session in April will address stimulating departmental productivity.

Jenny Mehmedovic and Marta Caminero-Santangelo recently attended a workshop on Best Practices for Building a Leadership Development Program, and plan to present ideas for a further restructured Chairs/Directors Leadership Program.

Carnegie Fellows Program: This semester MCS coordinated nomination materials for four KU faculty to be considered for the Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Energize the Educational Environment (Goal 1)

Predictive analytics project for University Innovation Alliance (UIA) using EAB’s Student Success Collaborative data to analyze outcomes of pre- professional students and recommend clear pathways to professional schools.

Continued support of the UIA collaboration through a site visit team travelling to Georgia State in February 2015. A UIA project proposal is being drafted.

Exploratory AIM for Orientation being redesigned around Exploratory Tracks from Admissions – these will utilize pathway information. Analysis of critical courses being done to inform Orientation and first year advising.

Enhancing the application of MySuccess at KU through re-implementing through PeopleSoft. A project planner has been assigned by IT and a charter for reimplementation has been drafted. Full re-implementation by August 1.

A retention specialist, housed in Undergraduate Studies, has been assigned to focus exclusively on MySuccess reimplementation. The schools of Engineering and Social Welfare, as well as Honors, are now using MySuccess. 22 freshmen/sophomore level courses participated in a progress survey in late February/early March.

Training materials were revised for the re-launch of MySuccess. Housing, Athletics and Financial Aid have all been trained on MySuccess and are using it.