Research and Innovation Area of Strategic Focus

Research and Scholarly Activity

First idea, new office of strategic initiatives

* Office allows Wright State to be more proactive in building relationships, finding funding options, and aligning researchers with target areas from government
* Office also monitor IP policies and strategies to create better funded collaborations and ease of working with industry
* Need better usage of CORE Scholar program in library
  + This would increase awareness of campus expertise

Second idea, Confronting Grand Challenges and Workforce Needs

* Target research to confront major issues (opiod challenge for example) to raise the profile of the university and become a recruiting a tool for additional faculty/researchers
* Require internal support and incentives to bring to fruition

Third idea, Create a Center for Undergraduate and Graduate Research

* Reconstitute an old center that went away after former staff lead left the university
* Be deliberate and connect and coordinate undergraduates to research along with mentorship of grad research students with undergraduates to provide support for undergraduates
* Increase the usage and training in computational research tools to make students more employment ready
* This idea merged many other ideas and activities

Discussion

Idea 3 – Center for Undergraduate and Graduate Research

* Like the office idea to support students, especially the seed money idea for student research
  + This will help to keep students on campus and fills a gap in current offerings
  + Allows Wright State to better compete against other schools
  + Boonshoft School of Med has made some similar investments

For ideas 1 & 2 (office of strat initiatives and workforce needs), what is the relationship of this new proposal to the VP of Research position?

* Current RSP structure does not contain a capability (pre and post award)
* Would this new proposed office report to the VPR?
* Should the responsibilities contained in idea 1 be rolled into the VPR office and responsibilities?
* Good ideas, but we need to remain cognizant of administrative rightsizing. We have numerous 1 and 2 people centers on campus
  + Are these ideas just creating additional administrative levels and offices?
  + Could we empower RSP to move on these responsibilities?
    - Would need to invest in people to lead these efforts rather than invest in administrative structures or functions
  + Good ideas, but shouldn’t this be what the VPR is supposed to do?
    - Idea was developed independent of financial resources, there is a need to grow and focus research
      * Still need staff support to become proactive in this field
  + What is the role of WSRI in this? We shouldn’t lose sight of them in this discussion
* What will motivate interdisciplinary research? How do we recognize it?
* Where is the boldness in the ideas? Think bigger
  + Need to elevate CORE scholar as it has the capability to link people and need to target people to work. How do we motivate those not involved? Current, standard communication methods are not proving effective (email, listservs, etc)
* Ideas 1 & 2 need to be in the VPR office. Caution that undergraduate research office (idea 3) could be lost in the VPR office. Maybe that should be merged into a workforce office.
* On idea 2, caution the cluster hiring of experts to address a grand challenge. As an institution, we are not big enough and financially strong to absorb hirings after grant funding goes away

Faculty/Staff Development

4 ideas, focusing on time, space, experience, and funding

* Time – focus of idea is mainly for staff as they have a greater time crunch
  + Provides a specific time on a regular basis for development (faculty can arrange based on teaching schedule)
  + Question – Isn’t it up to managers to provide the time for staff for development?
    - It is, but not all managers follow the policy
  + Is it easier to require a certain number of development opportunities, thus empowering staff to get the development time?
    - Staff don’t have the same flexibility in schedule for development
    - Managers must be held accountable to allow staff to have time for development
  + In this idea, many struggled with the idea of closing the university for a specific time for development – however, the concept of a service project for the entire campus was widely supported
* Space – Create a Faculty and Staff Development Centers
  + Each group has a different need, so likely could not be in the same location
  + Concept is to place all the existing services across campus into a new center to gain efficiencies
    - Provides support to personnel without making the person run around campus trying to find the right office – remove the Wright State Run Around
  + Could also create a virtual app that assesses the person’s skills the provide customized service options to expand individual capabilities
    - UD has a faculty training center that was looked at as a model
    - Aileron was also discussed as a possible model
* Experience – requiring a common experience (such as attending a class) for all faculty and staff
  + What is the point of registering for a class have to do with staff development?
  + Managers need instilled with the value of staff taking development classes – classes that are relevant
  + Resonate with the idea of shared experience of classes, maybe make it easier – it is of value to the organization and the employee
    - Difficult to take classes as staff due to time class offered
    - Look at removing barriers as way to increase opportunities to take classes
    - Don’t do “faux education” offer real courses for development
    - Maybe make a course on the history of Wright State brought into the onboarding process for faculty and staff
  + Can existing organizations be modified to bring the ideas/options brought forward by this group rather than creating a new center? (seek efficiencies and results)
    - Faculty relationship to CTL
    - Staff relationship to HR
    - Focus on bringing small centers/capabilities to CTL or HR and make it a focused driven organization with necessary resources to meet its mission
  + Need supervisors to get on board with allowing staff development opportunities
    - Need to change the culture with supervisors
    - Accrue professional development time similar to sick leave so there is a built in “time” for staff to use
    - Onboarding process should be enhanced
      * Raise awareness of the resources available
      * Make the effort more deliberate
      * Expand offerings and make longer process
      * Possibly look at a concierge type system for faculty similar to what HR created with their business partner program

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Group

* Approach to this topic was ad hoc in the past and community is asking Wright State to get more engaged
* The opportunity should be a co-shared financial obligation – Wright State can’t and shouldn’t provide people or financial resources without receiving a form of compensation

Idea 1 – Create a Wright State Entrepreneurship Center

* Group needs more dialogue with faculty and leadership across campus on this idea
* This is a method to get collaboration to start – space for it to happen
  + 444 building in downtown Dayton as an example (initiative led by AFRL and WBI, partners with TEC and Nucleus Co-Share)
* With a space, people need to know where to go
* At one point, TEC expressed an interest in occupying a space on the Dayton campus
  + TEC is also partnering with UD to create an entrepreneur/innovation space in the renovated Arcade
* For such a space, should seek out corporate sponsors to establish (similar to ReyRey Café)
* Project received much interest and support during the Idea Marketplace
* Currently host the Wright Venture program encouraging students to develop business ideas. Winner receives $5,000.
  + Non-winners have gone on to start their own businesses
  + Entrepreneurship club on campus, TEC provided $2000 to support
  + Most participation from College of Business, desire to expand to other colleges/disciplines
  + Need better communication to get the word out to other groups – program open to all students
  + Cross pollination between colleges and students is important

Embed innovation idea

* Idea is to move past the internal research loop to make students more innovative within their discipline (idea not targeted to technical fields, applicable to all disciplines)
* Embedding the idea does not necessarily mean developing new courses, enhance what is already provided
* This is more of a goal of the group, have not determined a specific idea
  + Have not figured out a method to make this happen
  + Like the idea of the 444 building in Dayton – engage more students and faculty
  + Need to teach students how to problem solve and work in collaborative teams
* Necessary to make this reality to educate the faculty on this concept and idea
  + Teach the faculty so they can teach the students
* Create an environment to make people think creatively – doesn’t have to be a technical issue – is a way to think
* The entrepreneurial spirit is not “yes, but” it is “yes, and”
* The innovation center is more warranted given the current culture and need to embrace risk (appropriate level)
  + What is role of the center to VPR?
  + What is meant by campus? Lake Campus already operates an entrepreneur center working with students and industry – it is successful
    - Need to keep in mind all the assets the University maintains
  + We currently have existing activities – how to empower and grow
    - Tech transfer, commercialization, experiential learning programs
* Challenge to find an idea – how to make the idea central to culture
  + Like the competition aspect of Wright Venture – maybe hold it in conjunction with the student symposium to generate additional momentum and participation
* Is the title of VPR appropriate? Should it be changed to encapsulate innovation?
* What does it really take to get students involved in events?
* Need inter-disciplinary teams – potentially create experimental classes and then evaluate to see how they run
  + Have to get faculty buy-in to get things moving
  + University is not getting contacted much by outside groups for assistance – university behind
* Look at courses to include in core courses to encourage innovation/entrepreneurship
  + Possibility of a small grant to support efforts in curriculum?
* Need to think beyond just tapping into students, be more broad to include other groups, like faculty and staff
* Requires a mindset shift for faculty – move things past just ideas/research/patents
* RSCOB has a class on innovation that is open to all majors – helps look at commercial aspects of work
* Lack of knowledge on campus about available resources – establish a road show to present options