New Faculty Orientation
August 21, 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®
WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE

Carl A. Pinkert, PhD
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA® Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development
UA Strategic Plan
Advancing the Flagship

1) Provide a premier undergraduate and graduate education that offers a global perspective and is characterized by outstanding teaching, high-quality scholarship and distinctive curricular and co-curricular programs.

2) Increase the University’s productivity and innovation in research, scholarship and creative activities that impact economic and societal development.

3) Enrich our learning and work environment by providing an accepting, inclusive community that attracts and supports a diverse faculty, staff and student body.

4) Provide opportunities and resources that facilitate work-life balance and enhance the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and staff.
**OVPRED**

- **Provides leadership in advancing UA’s research and economic development goals.**
- **Expansion of research funding from federal and state agencies, foundations, and the private sector.**
- Oversight of university-wide research enhancement/administration/compliance activities and promotion of multidisciplinary research programs, research infrastructure, technology transfer and economic development activities.
- **Fosters research collaboration within and beyond UA.** Additionally, we promote collaborative research and economic development partnerships with the business community.
Strategic Planning: Research

• **OVPRED Strategic Planning** – initial document drafted, vetted, to be woven into campus-wide planning effort.
  – Goal 1: Develop a continuous improvement process for the research enterprise.
  – Goal 2: Develop a culture where research is perceived as important.
  – Goal 3: Increase productivity in research, innovation, and creativity.
  – Goal 4: Further develop UA’s unique strengths and opportunities for research, innovation, creativity, and economic development.
  – Goal 5: Advance UA’s reach both nationally and internationally in existing and emerging areas of achievement.
  – Goal 6: Facilitate the necessary infrastructure for an environment that promotes a thriving research and economic development enterprise.
Associate VPs for Research

• Positions created in 2015
  – Two new positions at that time
  – Facilitating internal needs, including our strategic planning and research effectiveness (targeted research priorities)
  – Research center/institute liaisons
  – Programmatic support and internal interfaces (with ADRs, RAC, Senate Research and Service Committee)

• John Higginbotham: CCHS, CCN, CAS, SSW, HES
• Susan Burkett: Eng, CCC, C&IS, Edu, Law, Libraries
Offices for Sponsored Programs and Contract and Grant Accounting

- **Sponsored Programs Administration**
  - Encourages research and sponsored instruction and service through support of faculty and other personnel in the pursuit and administration of externally funded projects including proposal submission.

- **Contract and Grant Accounting**
  - Supports faculty and other personnel involved in sponsored agreements in ensuring the University’s financial transactions comply with fiscal and reporting requirements, as established by Federal and State law, agency regulations, and University policies and procedures.

- **Cost Analysis & Studies**
  - Develops, supports and negotiates Facilities and Administrative (Indirect) Cost Rates and provides oversight for the University’s service centers and federal property.

- **Research Development**
  - Coordinates programs designed to build the research community such as networking and other development opportunities, facilitates identification of funding resources and administers OVPRED funding programs.
Limited Submission Policy

Limited Submission
Grant Application Policy
Office of the Vice President for Research
2/3/2014

Policy: Funding agencies (sponsors) sometimes place limits on the number of letters of intent, pre-proposals or proposals that any one university may submit in response to a funding opportunity announcement (commonly referred to as a Request for Proposals – RFP). The following policy is designed to support an equitable review process while preventing any submission disqualifications due to submissions from The University of Alabama beyond the allowed number.

Internal Procedure
Committee Selection
Review Process
Policy Violations
Withdrawal of selected applicant
Submissions without OSP approval
Internal Submission Requirements
Pre-proposal Format
Internal Pre-proposal Review Criteria

http://ovpred.ua.edu/limited-submissions/
The University of Alabama subscribes to Pivot, https://pivot.cos.com/, a valuable search tool for funding opportunities and research collaborators.

As a researcher at the University you have free access to Pivot, which is an intuitive tool designed to send you weekly updates on funding opportunities that meet your search criteria. All faculty, staff and students may create a Pivot account and receive weekly Funding Alert emails with new or updated opportunities that match your saved funding searches.

The Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) offers individual and group sessions to cover the features and functionality of Pivot (http://ovpred.ua.edu/sponsored-programs/pivot-training/).

Additionally, Pivot has a number of on-line resources including a quick search for questions, brief YouTube videos and user FAQs.
ORC is charged with management and oversight of research compliance measures for the University. ORC provides:

- Comprehensive regulatory guidance to ensure responsible conduct of research that promote adherence to applicable laws, regulations and University policies.
  - Development of training and education, auditing, monitoring, and distribution of policies, procedures and standards of conduct.
- Assist research units and personnel in navigating the framework of federal, state, and local regulations identify compliance issues and develop coordinated compliance efforts and strategies.

**ORC oversight responsibilities include:**
- human subject research, research with animals, export control, conflict of interest, responsible conduct of research and misconduct in science.
Additional Initiatives

• **AVPRs** – facilitating internal needs, including our strategic plan, targeted research priorities/centers/institutes, and programmatic support as the research enterprise continues to grow.

• **Director of the Economic Development Academy** – developing curriculum and expanding our economic development capabilities and capacity.

• **Director of Undergraduate Research** – consolidating undergraduate research efforts and outreach including our Emerging Scholars program.

• **Biological Safety Officer** – to interface between Environmental Health and Safety and Research Compliance.
Office for Technology Transfer

- **Innovation Management**
  - Aid UA faculty, staff and students in bringing their innovations and technologies to market.

- **Start-Up Assistance**
  - Offers support in analyzing potential opportunities to form a start-up business based on UA technology.

- **Education**
  - Mentors employees on intellectual property issues as well as UA’s policies and procedures.
Alabama Innovation and Mentoring of Entrepreneurs (AIME) Center

- Responsible for the overall operations of the AIME center, including and the Bama Technology Incubator.
- Serves as a Proof-of-Concept Center for UA innovations.
- Identify and facilitate value-added innovation and prototype creation in statistically controlled and industrial relevant tests.
  - Adding value to invention/commercialization of UA intellectual property.
- Bama Technology Incubator (BTI) fosters entrepreneurial and research growth of start-up companies.
  - Facilitating development of marketable products and processes from research discoveries and
  - Commercialization of those products and processes through successful business ventures.
Research Priority Areas

- Water, Energy and Environment
- Transportation and the Automotive Industry
- Cyber and IT (from Big Data and GIS technologies to cyber security, cyber forensics and crime)
- Health, Healthcare and Biotechnology
- Military Demographics
- Material Science, Aerospace Engineering and Additive Manufacturing
- Sustainable Civil Infrastructure
Existing Interdisciplinary Strengths

Water, Environment, Energy
- Alabama Water Institute (AWI)
- Environmental Institute
- Center for Freshwater Studies
- Geological Sciences
- Groundwater contamination/restoration
- Alternative energy sources, Biofuels/fuel cells
- Hybrid vehicles, Power Systems, energy storage
- Natl. Water Center (NWC) collaboration

Transportation, Automotive, Aerospace
- Alabama Transportation Institute (ATI)
- CAVT (Ctr. for Advanced Vehicle Technol.)
- Univ. Transportation Ctr. for Ala. (UTCA)
- Aerospace engineering and mechanics
- Additive manufacturing
- Composite materials, coatings
- Structural dynamics, Propulsion
- Supply chain technologies

Health and Health Care
- Alabama Life Research Institute (ALRI)
- Rural Health, Social Work, Nursing
- Autism, Psychology
- Center for Mental Health and Aging
- Neurodegeneration

Materials Science & Nanotechnology
- Metallurgical and materials engineering
- MINT (Ctr. for Materials for IT)
- Condensed matter physics, Synthetic chemistry
- Data/energy storage, energy sensors

Cyber Security/Crime/Information Technology
- UA Cyber Institute (UACI)
- CAPS (Ctr. for Advanced Public Safety)
- MIS (Mgmt. Information Systems)
- MINT (Ctr. for Materials for IT)
- Cyber/cyber-security/cyber forensics
- Institute for Cyber Security & Crime
- Criminal Justice, Political Science, Law School

Sustainable Civil Infrastructure
- Performance, resiliency & sustainability
- Post-disaster economic recovery
- Creative Writing: Creative Writing - English
- Synthetic Chemistry: Chemistry, Chem. Engineering
- Elementary Particle Physics: Physics and Astronomy

Evolving Strengths
- Astrophysics
Research Grants Committee Grants Program (RGC)

• Sponsored by the OVPRED with review assistance by the RGC, awards are made annually for faculty proposals.

*The primary focus: to facilitate and support extramural grant funding opportunities and creative scholarship leading to heightened program visibility at UA.* In particular, RGC funding is made available to faculty for two years of support to fund assistants, supplies, equipment, books, summer salary, and travel.

• **But what about regional and state-wide needs?**

• **Reworked program for greater breadth of opportunity for 2015 awards** including funding amounts, interdisciplinary research projects and instrumentation/equipment support.

([http://ovpred.ua.edu/rgc/](http://ovpred.ua.edu/rgc/))
Other Internal Seed Support

Most recent collaborative opportunities –

• SECU
• UAS-VPRs

Examples of other internal mechanisms/resources

• Core facilities
• Colleges/Schools
• Departmental
• Outreach
• Graduate School
• SGA
Workshops and Networking

Fall Semester 2017 (8/21/2017 to 12/30/2017)

• Monday, August 28, 2:00pm, PIVOT – Identifying Funding Opportunities. 358 Rose Admin. This one hour session focuses on finding external funding through PIVOT, a powerful search engine tool available to all faculty, staff and students through UA’s subscription. Additional sessions: 9/29/17 at 3:00pm, 9/6/17 at 3:00pm, 9/21/17 at 3:00pm, 10/10/17 at 2:00pm.

• Tuesday, September 19, 7:00am DC Flight to meet with Program Officers. (from Tuscaloosa Regional Airport). We coordinate monthly trips to Washington DC to meet with federal agencies. Interested faculty should speak to their ADR for information re: application. Flights are typically the third Tuesday of each month. Additional flights: 10/17, 11/21, and 12/19.

• Wednesday, September 7, 10:00am, OVPRED and Sponsored Programs Overview. 358 Rose Admin. This session provides an overview of the OVPRED and covers a variety of topics including preparation, submission and administration of proposals and awards. You will learn how OSP, Contract & Grant Accounting, Research Compliance, and Technology Transfer can assist you. Additional sessions: 9/7 at 10:00am, 9/20 at 11:00am, 10/3 at 4:00pm, 10/5 at 3:00pm, 10/17 at 11:00 am.

• Wednesday, September 13, 3:00pm, Networking Session: topic pending. 1140 Northeast Medical Building. Speed Networking is a fast-paced way of bringing together researchers from different disciplines who otherwise might not meet. The goal is to provide a structured format to explore new partnerships, discuss research expertise, spark new approaches and evaluate the potential for future collaboration. Next Fall Semester networking session: 10/11 at 3:00pm.

• Wednesday, October 4, 12:00pm, How to Speak with a Program Officer. 1140 Northeast Medical Building. Sometimes communicating with a program officer can be intimidating. It can also be difficult to interpret the bureaucratic-speak. Led by Dr. Higginbotham, Associate VP for Research, this workshop will provide guidance to research faculty on how and when to communicate with funding agency program officers.

• Wednesday, October 25, 10:30am, RGC Funding: How to Apply. 1140 Northeast Medical Building. This session will provide an overview of the Research Grants Committee (RGC) internal research grant mechanism. The session will cover the application process, required proposal components, funding levels and research areas. RGC proposals are accepted from full-time tenured/tenure track, clinical/clinical track UA faculty. The proposal submission window for 2018 funding is 11/15–12/18/17. All proposals must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. 12/18/17. Additional sessions: 11/9, 3:30pm; 11/15, 10:00am; 12/1, 10:30am.

• Wednesday, November 8, 12:00pm, Introduction to Secondary Data. 1140 Northeast Medical Building. Secondary data analysis is research involving the analysis of data previously gathered for other research work. Secondary data analysis enables beginning researchers to utilize the data-collecting access to much larger datasets than they could easily or economically acquire on their own. Led by Dr. Higginbotham, this workshop is designed for beginning researchers or more experienced researchers who need to be introduced to secondary data analysis.
Research Facilities & Instrumentation

Research Facilities and Instrumentation (Download)

- 3D Printing Laboratory
- Advanced Composite Materials Laboratory
- Advanced Material Testing Laboratory
- Analytical Geochemistry Lab
- Athletic Training Research Lab
- Atomic Absorbance Spectrometer
- Biolog Instrumentation
- BioPac Psychophysiology Systems and Brain Vision EEG Amplifiers
- BioTek ELx50 Microplate Instrumentation
- BioTek Multiwell Plate Reader
- Center for Green Manufacturing
- Center for Materials for Information Technology (MINT)
- Central Analytical Facility
- Child Development Research Center (CDRC)
- Child Media Lab
- Core Molecular Laboratory-Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Biological Sciences Analytical Facility
- Department of Chemistry Analytical Facility
- Electromechanical Systems Lab (EMSyL)
- Electronic Health Record Center
- Elga Purelab Flex3 Water Deionizer
- Engines and Combustion Lab (ECL)
- EPR Facility
- Exercise Physiology Laboratory
- Eye-tracking Equipment and Software from Applied Science Laboratories
- Food and Nutrition Research Lab
- Geological Science Stable Isotope Lab
- Geological Sciences X-ray Diffraction and XRF Labs
- Grinbath All-In-One EyeGuide Eye Tracker
- Health Comm Lab
- Hydrogeology Labs
- ICIR Content Analysis Lab
- Infrared Spectroscopy
- Johnson Molecular Systematics Laboratory
- Large Scale Structures Laboratory (LSSL)
- Mass Spectroscopy Facility
- Metal Casting and Solidification Research Facility
- MindWare Tech Mobile Heart Rate Monitors with Noldus Observer Software
- NMR Facility
- Optical Analysis Facility-Department of Biological Sciences
- Organic Analysis Lab
- Precision Machining Laboratory
- Psychophysiology Lab
- Rock Preparation Facilities
- Simulation Lab
- Survey Lab
- Telemedicine Equipment
- Theater Lab
- UA Micro-Fabrication Facility (MFF)
- UV/Vis/NIR Spectrometer
- Welding and Joining Laboratory
- Wind and Water Tunnels
- X-ray Diffraction Laboratory
- Youth Services Institute - School of Social Work

http://osp.ua.edu/research-facilities-and-instrumentation.html
The SRCL is organized to effectively conduct and support research endeavors at The University of Alabama through applied analytics. These activities include:

- Campus wide collaboration on extramural grant applications
- Assistance with analytic study design and implementation
- Research partnerships with government and industry
- Consulting services for University of Alabama faculty

Individuals and organizations who use the services provided by the SRCL are expected to offer appropriate recognition to SRCL members such as shared credit for grant applications and authorship on academic publications and presentations.

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UA Office for Proposal Development

The development of winning proposals requires a dedicated effort, subject matter expertise, and experience in proposal preparation.

- In FY 2016, 431 of 1378 full-time faculty served as PI or collaborator on at least one proposal (423/1328 in FY15; 357/1287 in FY14).

- In FY 2016, 256 faculty participated in writing/submitting two or more proposals (240 in FY15; 214 in FY14).

The OPD works with faculty, staff and administration to help develop competitive external funding proposals (with a wide range of pre-award services and information to enhance proposal quality.

*Getting faculty to federal agencies – relationship building.*
Faculty/Research Recognition

• Faculty research recognition effort.

• Greater visibility of what we do and what our faculty has accomplished throughout the year.
  – On our website/online
  – With media outlets
  – Events on campus
  – Reaching out / providing support to colleges, schools, departments

• Spring 2018, in conjunction with our Research Advisory Committee and all colleges/schools, **Faculty Research Day** and the **President’s Faculty Research Award**, recognizing the diversity of disciplines, expertise and commitment on our campus.

  * [http://ovpred.ua.edu/faculty-research-day/](http://ovpred.ua.edu/faculty-research-day/)
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