

## A&SPIRE YEAR TWO (2015-2016)

### Theme 4

### INVESTING IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES



#### **AOD 1 – Space Plan for Health Sciences**

- This AOD is addressed in Theme 2 as the health sciences related to a subset of the research space needs in the sciences.

#### **AOD 2 – Task Force for Administrative Structure of Health Sciences**

##### ***Year 2 Accomplishments***

- During Spring 2015, an *A&Spire* task force chaired by Divisional Dean Ken Wilkins brought a recommendation to the Dean of Arts & Sciences to appoint a Health Sciences Coordinator (HSC). The role of the HSC would be to serve as liaison for students and faculty beyond the College and beyond the university in developing and maintaining

research and internship relationships with medical schools, medical centers, hospitals and other organizations.

- In Fall 2015, the Dean appointed a second task force to develop a job description for the HSC. That committee brought its report to the Council of Chairs in January 2016, with the recommendation that the HSC position be modified into an Associate Dean of Research (to include health). The proposed position would be charged with promoting research collaborations both within Arts & Sciences and beyond campus and would serve faculty and graduate research across all disciplines. The Council of Chairs at its May 2016 meeting strongly supported the proposal, and recommended a national search during the 2016-17 academic year to fill the position.

### ***Year 3 Goals***

- The Dean will form a search committee for the selection of an associate dean for research.
- The Dean will form a committee to assess best management and leadership practices for the undergraduate student pre-medical population in Arts & Sciences.

### **AOD 3 – Achieving a More Favorable Student-to-Faculty Ratio in the Sciences**

#### ***Year 2 Accomplishments***

- Three faculty searches were approved in biology (two replacements, one new), three faculty lines were approved for the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience (two replacements, one new) and two new faculty lines were approved in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.
- The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has completed a strategic plan that includes future faculty lines, in part to help reduce the student-to-faculty ratio.

#### ***Year 3 Goals***

- The new chair of the Department of Biology is now in place, developing plans for new and replacement faculty lines with an emphasis on health sciences to help reduce the student-to-faculty ratio.
- The Department of Psychology and Neuroscience will complete its strategic plan to include faculty lines to help reduce the student-to-faculty ratio.

## **AOD 4 – Creating a Faculty Structure for Clinical, Research, Joint Appointments**

### ***Year 2 Accomplishments***

- During Spring 2015, the Council of Chairs and the Dean of Arts & Sciences approved the College's guidelines for clinical faculty, then sent them forward to the Provost's Office where final approval was obtained.
- Based on the new guidelines for clinical faculty, three academic units within A&S have submitted their program-specific versions of guidelines:
  - Guidelines for the Program in Medical Humanities have been approved and two faculty members (Lauren Barron, William Hoy) are now appointed to clinical ranks.
  - The Department of Geosciences has produced guidelines for professional-practice faculty. This draft is currently under review with the Provost's Office.
  - Draft guidelines for the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience have been submitted to the College and are being revised as per comments from Arts & Sciences and the Provost's Office.

### ***Year 3 Goals***

- Other departments are invited to develop clinical-faculty guidelines as might be appropriate for their disciplines.
- Departments are encouraged to consider protocols for appointments of research faculty or joint appointments.

## **AOD 5 – Enrollment Management for the Health Sciences**

### ***Year 2 Accomplishments***

- The Science Research Fellows (SRF) degree proposal has been approved by the Arts & Sciences Council of Chairs and subsequently by the Provost's Office for implementation in the fall of 2017. See Appendix IV for a copy of the degree proposal.
- Other actions steps in this AOD have been accomplished: creation of an Enrollment Council, creation of the SRF degree, and creation of New Student Experience courses from the Office of Prehealth Studies.

### ***Year 3 Goal***

- In consultation with the SRF committee, the Dean will appoint the director of the Science Research Fellows program in the fall of 2016.

## **AOD 6 – Building Collaborations Across School Boundaries/Medical Schools**

### ***Year 2 Accomplishment***

- Proposed the creation of the Baylor Center for Informatics (BCI) to serve as a focal point for the development of computational and statistical tools for informatics research and transdisciplinary informatics training. The BCI would be composed of a group of faculty, staff and students who perform basic research in a variety of data-intensive areas, driven by associated faculty in the physical and life sciences.
  - This initiative began Spring 2015 with discussions that included representatives from the College of Arts & Sciences (Dean Lee Nordt, Divisional Dean Ken Wilkins) and the School of Engineering & Computer Science (Dean Dennis O’Neal, Erich Baker, Greg Speegle).
  - Later in 2015 a committee met to consider specific topics for faculty collaborations and to draft a proposal.
  - A few projects related to informatics have been initiated, including data mining collaborations of Waco Family Health Center personnel and Baylor faculty in Psychology and Neuroscience, Health, Human Performance and Recreation, and the Office of Prehealth Studies. This project has identified steps to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of extracting data from Waco Family Health Center data records. Such interactions of Baylor faculty with community organizations also represent efforts to strengthen community engagement (Theme 3).

### ***Year 3 Goals***

- Finalize a proposal for the Baylor Center for Informatics (self-funded). The Dean will work with the Dean of the School of Engineering & Computer Science to complete this goal and submit the proposal to the Provost.
- Begin discussions involving the Dean of A&S and the Dean of the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences regarding the possibility of a public health program.