RESEARCH
Five-Year Component Plan
UA Little Rock is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as an R2: Doctoral University – High Research Activity. As such, research is a crucial part of our mission. Research also plays an important part in accomplishing the other four institutional goals. The component plan presented below attempts to articulate the goals and objectives that we believe will help propel UA Little Rock’s mission as a metropolitan research university focused on applied research.
INSTITUTIONAL GOAL: EXPERIENCE

Improve the student, faculty, and staff experience by cultivating an engaging campus community that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Research

Component Goal 1: Grow and foster an efficient, effective, and supportive infrastructure that enables successful research.

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve and increase access to research infrastructure.
  » Strategy 1: Create a database of research instrumentation and databases available across campus.
  » Strategy 2: Double the number of infrastructure-based grants submitted by UA Little Rock by 2028.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve research support services.
  » Strategy 1: Develop a systematic training program focused on the intersection of current business processes (e.g. procurement, compliance, accounting) and research needs.
  » Strategy 2: Decrease current barriers to research through the systematic evaluation of current research-related policies and procedures.
  » Strategy 3: Revise the Indirect Cost Policy to provide more funds for reinvestment in research support across campus and research centers.

OBJECTIVE 3: Improve visibility of current scholarship across campus.
  » Strategy 1: Develop a research communication strategy with the Office of Communications to systematically highlight the work of UA Little Rock researchers.
  » Strategy 2: Develop a dynamic research web page that highlights the research across campus.
INSTITUTIONAL GOAL: RESEARCH

Expand the institution’s applied research footprint to provide advanced educational opportunities and broaden external impact.

Research (in collaboration with Academic Affairs)

Component Goal 1: Increase the number and capacity of faculty, staff, and student researchers.

OBJECTIVE 1: Engage, develop, and reward faculty and staff researchers.
» Strategy 1: Create a research academy that supports research mentorship, skills training, and professional development.
» Strategy 2: Work jointly with the Office of the Provost to ensure that research, scholarship, and creative activity and the funding thereof is incentivized at all organizational levels.
» Strategy 3: Evaluate the impact of workload policies on research productivity and recommend changes.

OBJECTIVE 2: Recruit and develop student researchers.
» Strategy 1: Incentivize and support faculty recruitment of student researchers through opportunities such as Signature Experience, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships, Research Experiences for Undergraduates, and Graduate Fellowships.
» Strategy 2: Increase graduate assistant stipends to a competitive level.
» Strategy 3: Increase professional development opportunities for student researchers across campus.

Component Goal 2: Expand our research footprint through increased publication, grant applications, external funding, creative works, and promotion of research findings.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase external funding by $10 million over the next 5 years.
» Strategy 1: Incentivize grantsmanship through reduced teaching loads for research-active faculty.
» Strategy 2: Increase support for proposal development through the use of grant writers.
» Strategy 3: Increase IDC funds available for matching when required.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase new interdisciplinary research initiatives across campus.
» Strategy 1: Develop a Faculty Research Council to help develop campus wide initiatives/grants that are synced with national interests and funding opportunities.
» Strategy 2: Increase opportunities for researchers across campus to interact in both social and academic settings.
» Strategy 3: Expand the Collaborative Proposals for Research pilot program to the entire campus.

Component Goal 3: Increase the impact of (our) research through innovation, commercialization, and community partnerships.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase invention disclosures, provisional patents, and patents.
» Strategy 1: Increase the technology transfer professional development opportunities for faculty.
» Strategy 2: Partner with UAF and UAMS to evaluate potential intellectual property.
INSTITUTIONAL GOAL: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Enhance community engagement through partnerships and collaborations involving faculty, staff, and students that address local, state, and regional needs.

Research

Component Goal 1: Increase community and external involvement in research endeavors.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase the number of licenses, start-ups, and SBIR/STTR funding associated with UA Little Rock Intellectual Property.

» Strategy 1: Partner with ASBTDC, Tech Park, and the Venture Center to provide interested faculty with entrepreneurship training.
» Strategy 2: Provide one-on-one support for faculty and students pursuing SBIR/STTR grants.
» Strategy 3: Work with Little Rock Chamber and ASBTDC to find Arkansas companies that might be interested in licensing existing IP.
» Strategy 4: Develop an Entrepreneurial Experience course for current students.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase the number of Research/Community Partnerships.

» Strategy 1: Develop an annual research fair where the community can meet researchers and discuss partnerships.
» Strategy 2: Increase seed funding for community/UA Little Rock research projects.
Research Committee

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Theresa Beiner – Dean of the Bowen School of Law
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