

Strategic Plan
Division of Research and Economic Development

September 2017

Vision Statement

The Division will be the efficient, transparent driver that supports “high-impact” research and creative work that addresses state, regional, and global challenges to improve health, environmental sustainability, economic development, and the human experience.

Mission Statement

One way in which the University of Rhode Island serves the people of the state is through the direct benefits of the research and scholarship undertaken by our faculty and students. Another way is through our education of new generations of leaders, innovators, and educators reflecting and serving the full spectrum of society. A vital research enterprise is essential to both.

The Division is committed to provide the highest level of support to the URI research community through responsiveness, communication, and transparency, always striving to improve the delivery of our services.

Values

Our core values include:

- Efficiency- timely, responsive services through streamlined processes
- Knowledge- expertise and continuing staff education
- Collaboration- cooperative, team-driven
- Innovation- striving to evolve our services to better meet the needs and challenges of our clients and stakeholders (both internal and external)
- Ethical- fair, honest, compliant practices

The University’s Goals

Six goals are set forth in the University of Rhode Island Academic Strategic Plan 2012-2016 (the “Plan”). They are:

- Enhance student success.
- Expand research, scholarship and creative work.
- Grow a global presence.
- Embrace diversity and social justice.

- Streamline processes to improve effectiveness.
- Implement a bold advancement agenda.

The Division will support the Plan by implementing the following strategies:

GOAL 1: ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS

Transform undergraduate and graduate student learning and academic support with a firm commitment to student success and the development of knowledgeable, skilled, and engaged graduates prepared for an ever-changing world.

DIVISION STRATEGIES

Support the involvement of students in research, e.g., by seeding a “Big Idea” student research endeavor.

Support student entrepreneurship by making introductions to a network of business mentors and by fostering the creation of a University start-up incubator.

Create student internships in the Division, e.g., supervised market analysis and patent searches in the Office of Intellectual Property and Economic Development and grant administration in the Office of Sponsored Projects.

Publicize student research accomplishments in the Division’s Momentum publication.

GOAL 2: EXPAND RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE WORK

Achieve high-impact translational and innovative research, scholarship, and creative work that addresses state, regional, and world challenges to improve health, environmental sustainability, economic development, and the human experience.

DIVISION STRATEGIES

Implement additional strategies to identify funding opportunities in Health, Science and Technology, Environment, and Liberal Learning and Scholarship, e.g., by adding horizon-spotting capabilities to the Office of Research Development; create new venues and events that inform various industries of opportunities for research collaboration.

Improve proposal assistance by adding grant-writing capabilities to the Office of Research Development.

Support the expansion, upgrading and accreditation of the campus vivarium facilities; support implementation of the high-performance research computing initiative.

Support the maintenance of critical core facilities.

GOAL 3: GROW A GLOBAL PRESENCE

Advance internationalization of the University, develop students as engaged, global citizens, and create meaningful international strategic partnerships.

DIVISION STRATEGIES

Identify and publicize an increased number of the opportunities for international research collaboration.

Establish new relationships with foreign trade groups that have offices in the region.

Identify opportunities and foster the initiation of new research collaborations with our international academic partners.

Streamline administrative processes and review of collaborative research agreements.

GOAL 4: EMBRACE DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Inspire an enlightened community that is characterized by vibrant cultural diversity; that is built upon a learning environment that fosters respect, understanding, and social justice; and that rejects prejudice and intolerance.

DIVISION STRATEGIES

Develop mentoring and professional development programs for Division staff, and faculty from underrepresented groups.

Work with the University's office of Community, Equity and Diversity to engage students from underrepresented groups in the proposed Division internship programs.

Encourage and support Division personnel in using the University's Affirmative Action plan to increase the number of diverse staff.

Develop a research administration curriculum in partnership with CCRI, with efforts to engage students from underrepresented groups.

GOAL 5: STREAMLINE PROCESSES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

Engender a highly professional work culture that celebrates service and is characterized by flexible, effective, and efficient processes and by trust, support, and recognition towards greater institutional effectiveness.

DIVISION STRATEGIES

Develop and implement processes to streamline and improve the workflow for research awards, from proposal to post-award.

Create a series of brief instructional videos to help investigators navigate the various research administrative processes, e.g., IACUC or IRB submission, grant proposal writing and submission, and invention disclosure.

Update the Intellectual Property Policy to create a more streamlined evaluation and decision process; post clear instructions for invention disclosure and an explanation of the workflow for invention evaluation and patent decisions.

GOAL 6: IMPLEMENT A BOLD ADVANCEMENT AGENDA

Elevate the stature of the University through robust and bold strategic advancement initiatives designed to establish a strong and sustainable financial and marketplace position.

DIVISION STRATEGIES

Collaborate with the URI Foundation on identifying University funding priorities and creating case statements for support.

Implement a collaborative process for the development of industry prospect strategies.

Leverage existing relationships with industry partners and the Business Engagement Center to expand the potential prospect base.