Identifying and Reporting Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities, and Discovery (RSCAD) College Strengths

January 30, 2014
Why We’re Here

• To determine how to move forward to identify and report College areas of RSCAD strength
  – Clarifying the purpose of this effort
  – Recap background and efforts to date
  – Review and discussed reporting template and guidance
  – Determine next steps
Purpose – What and Why?

• What: Provide a “ready list” of RSCAD areas of strength that can be shared both internally and externally.

• Why:
  – Highlight the value and potential of our RSCAD work to external stakeholders, e.g., funding agencies, legislators, Regents, potential corporate/industry partners, etc.
    • *Expression of University Strengths* already done on an annual basis for federal funders
Promote interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, teaming/collaboration, etc.

Outreach to attract and recruit graduate students, faculty, and staff in our RSCAD areas

Assist the new Vice President for Research by providing a portfolio of RSCAD strength areas
Background and efforts to date

• List of strengths requested in various reports:
  – Research Infrastructure Task Force 2010
  – K-State 2025 Visionary Plan 2011
  – Research Themes Committee Report 2012
  – KBOR/Council of Chief Research Officers (COCRO) strategic planning 2013
Research Themes Committee Report

• Identified research areas of strength based on two criteria:
  – Likely to attract support from funding agencies in the future
  – A strong base of success already established at K-State

• Identified 12 areas of research strength for the university

• Recommended that the process be extended to include RSCAD areas where criteria other than external funding could be used to identify strengths

• President requested that the Colleges identify their RSCAD strengths
Progress to date

• Two mini-retreats held with Deans and Associate Deans for Research (ADR) to discuss opportunities and challenges to moving forward (Spring 2013)
  – 27 possible criteria to consider when determining strengths were identified

• Subcommittee of ADRs proposed a research strength matrix as a methodology to the Deans and suggested that the Provost office develop an approach based on feedback (December 2013)
What we did...

• Reviewed materials from the past three years
• Cross-walked the criteria list from the mini-retreats with the proposed December list
• Reframed and simplified the approach by:
  – Reducing the number of criteria to 20
  – Developing guidance and simple reporting template focusing only on – what are your strengths and why?
  – Maintaining flexibility for Colleges to determine their strengths, e.g. “One size does not fit all!”
Where we are...

• Guidance, Template, and Criteria distributed to the Deans (Feb 2014)

• Reports due to the Provost Office: Friday, May 23, 2014