

## **Master Plan – University Research Workgroup**

### **In attendance:**

1. Paul Lingenfelter, Chair
2. Kerry Davidson & Karen Denby, BoR
3. Marty Fortner, SU System
4. Les Guice, LA Tech
5. Tom Klei, LSU System
6. Rancy Legeai, LAICU/Tulane (for Yvette Jones)
7. David Longanecker, Panel/WICHE
8. Cliff Loy, Committee of 100
9. Meg Mahoney, LABI: BRAC
10. Nancy Rabalais, LUMCON
11. Donna Ryan, LSU/Pennington
12. Cheryl Serrett, PAR
13. Sharon Southall, UL System
14. Aziz Saber, ALFS

### **University Research Workgroup:**

- Task is to consider broad strategy; investment toward productivity, in strategic view of research enhancement/growth. How to use the research funded enterprise to the betterment of the state... how might they be focused in a different way?
- Consider meshing w/ BoR (Sponsored Programs) work in developing strategies for the master plan.
- Using LONI as communication system in the link – can enrich academic envt by linking the state for collaboration.

### **Presentation – comparing research dollars, data**

- In LA research expenditure per capita is lower than (most) states: private research expenditure is 31% of total (75% nationally)
- HEd expenditures: greater state investment in LA than most other states... Growth rate is good

## **DISCUSSIONS:**

LA puts a lot of state money into research: are we getting the kind of returns that we should? Is it serving the state's priorities? Are we leveraging it enough?

### **Human Capital.**

- To build an academic environment: is it more productive to support early development (junior faculty) or to attract more senior scientists with start-up packages, i.e., with external funding, track records, teams, who attract post-docs, technology transfer, corporate research.
- Group people w/ multiple disciplines around a theme/topic/focus area: build energy with different skills, backgrounds all addressing the same goal.
- Life Cycle issue of an academic career: developing young faculty is important, but that's not how you build real capacity, e.g., build high level capacity & infrastructure, then develop the young.
- Need for connections, collaboration – formalized mentoring. What if: fund junior faculty, but they need mentoring. It doesn't all have to be at every institution ... those junior faculty in the teaching inst could collaborate and be mentored by those senior faculty in research institutions.

- Importance of infrastructure: one can't attract top researchers without facilities, technical support, and labs. The increased state funding brings an opportunity for institutions to address strategic use of resources.

Research in non-STEM fields:

- LA has good reputation in K-12 teacher education innovations; liberal arts.
- What is the right role for the State, the right balance in the State's role? Are there other things the State should do? What should be the objectives – reasonable, with reasonable time period; right strategy & measure? What is the role of competitive grants in infrastructure?
- What should institutions do, in management of the research enterprise, to ensure they are getting as much benefit as possible in mgt (& creation) of flexible resources?