OVPR RESEARCH TOWN HALL

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Vice Provost for Research
Thursday, September 30, 2021
Overview

Welcome Back

A Year in Review / Highlights

DEIJ – NIH FIRST Proposal Update

Operational Updates
  • Research Safety
  • Human Subjects Research
  • Return to In-Office Work Plans

Announcements

VPR Transition
Tufts Researchers Make a Difference in Our Communities
FY22 Notable Achievements

Integrated Approaches to Enhance Sustainability, Resiliency and Robustness in US Agri-Food Systems: Enabling Cellular Agriculture with Cross-Disciplinary Approaches (SOE & Friedman School)

Wave Energy Technology Assessment for Optimal Grid Integration and Blue Economy Advancement (SOE)

Feed the Future (FtF) Innovation Lab for Food Systems for Nutrition (Friedman School)

Facility Upgrade for the New England Regional Biosafety Laboratory (Cummings School)

Novel Food-based Approach for Prevention of Age-Associated Cognitive Decline in Older Adults with Obesity (HNRCA)

Rational Drug Regimen Optimization for Tuberculosis (TUSM)
Start-up & Accelerator Highlights

Tufts Start-ups

- SeaDeep - monitoring and inspection systems for sustainable offshore aquaculture
- Cellens Labs - development of advanced imaging capabilities for diagnosing cancer

Tufts Launchpad Accelerator

- Five new commercialization projects related to clean water, energy efficiency, vaccine development, cancer diagnosis and Lyme disease
DEIJ
NIH FIRST PROPOSAL UPDATE

NIH Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST)
• What is being built upon & what will the future look like?
• What is new about the current plan and what are the alternatives if it does not work?
• We have examples of programming but how can we be more strategic in developing a sustainable plan.

• How will the team be developed and managed?
• What is the strategy to mentor next team of leaders for sustainability?
• While Genco and Sackey have the expertise to lead the program need to demonstrate institutional commitment to succession.

• What innovative conceptional models or theories will guide our work that can be shared with others?
• What is innovative & strategic about the implementation of operational aspects of the program?
• Leadership development could be innovative for Tufts.

• Can we demonstrate feasibility for size of cohort and sustainability plan?
• Can we better develop a Retention Plan?
• Find a balance between ability to implement the plan and resources to recruit.
Postdoc-to-Faculty Pipeline Program

- Internal award system for exceptional URM postdocs interested in becoming faculty at Tufts
- Increased opportunities for postdocs to build their own research program while working in a Tufts laboratory
  - Includes funds for project development and workshops/meetings
  - Awardees will be assigned a mentoring committee (similar to graduate students)
  - Grant submission expected in year 3 and 4
  - Student mentoring and teaching responsibilities in years 3 and 4
- Annual review of all participants will evaluate progress and determine if postdocs continue
- The expectation is that those who complete the program WILL be hired as faculty

Year 1: 10%
Year 2: 20%
Year 3: 40%
Year 4: 50%
Input from Deans, Research Council and Executive Administrative Deans

• Work with other Boston Schools to network – spousal hires both recruitment and retention
• Central housing pilot – recruitment
• Central joint school hires – recruitment and retention
• Central fund to support retention
• Leadership training
Tufts FIRST Program – Current Action Plan

C-Change Survey
  • Fall 2021

Recruitment and Retention
  • Strategic Centralized Program
    • Realign resources
    • Tufts specific DEIJ and Antiracism Initiative
  • LEAD Scholars Program
  • Current school recruitment
  • Post-Doc pipeline program
OPERATIONAL UPDATES
Biosafety Office

Staffing Vacancies
• Action plan
• Prioritization of Biosafety Activities
• Additional resources

COVID 19 Updates
• Lab Cleaning
• Other
Human Subjects Research

• Vaccination Policy
• Human Subjects Research Recruitment Service
Return to In-Office Work Plans

- Implementing a hybrid work model as of January 1st with a minimum of 2 days of in-office work for all non-essential staff

- Relocating former EHS staff from Posner Hall to 75 Kneeland Street

- Will continue to utilize Zoom for major stakeholder meetings
Tufts Springboard – New and Improved

Funding Structure:
• Tier 1: Funding up to $100K
• Tier 2: Funding up to $35K
• Tier 3: Funding up to $15K

Award Duration:
• Tier 1 & International projects: 2 years with check-ins
• Tier 2 & 3: 1 year with check-ins

Submission Due Dates:
• Research & Scholarship Program: Friday, October 29, 2021
• Educational/Curricular Program: Tuesday, January 18, 2022
SAVE the DATE

2021 Virtual Tufts Initiative on Substance Use and Addiction Symposium

Friday, October 29, 2021
VPR TRANSITION
VPR Transition
Next Steps

VPR Replacement
• Engaging Isaacson, Miller to conduct an external search
• Internal candidates will be encouraged to apply
• Search Committee
• Open forums/listening sessions and targeted discussions with key stakeholders

Provost Office Organizational Assessment
• Working Group – Academic, research, and administrative vision
• Engaging Huron to conduct an external review
• Focus groups and interviews
• Timeline

VPR Search Open Forums:
• Faculty Open Forum: Tuesday, October 12th, 4PM
• General Open Forum: Friday, October 15th, 2PM
Open Discussion