Mason Research Strategy & Development Elements: Status

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Mason research performing reasonably well

- Nearly breaking top 150 with its $100 million research expenditure budget FY 2009
- A 27% increase in sponsored research/programs
- U.S. News & World Report ranks Mason as the top “up and coming university” in the U.S.
- Deans take research as a serious goal; faculty & administration responding energetically
- Mason is engaged in building its research corpus!
Questions

Is Mason organized as well as it could be to move from 150th to top 50 university ranking?
Are we presenting our research capability & potential to top advantage?
How much can research grants & contracts be increased without huge new investments?
Attracting increased support to the research mission?
How to manage new resources for research?
Strategic Approach

A simple goal to focus motivation: become top 50 research university by 2015

Create a structure to clearly illustrate Mason’s strengths & development path

Create several large & sustainable research centers or areas of concentration: provide assistance for preparation of large proposals

Provide seed grants for junior faculty with grant writing assistance & for senior faculty with new break through research ideas
Mission & Goals

Create a safer more sustained world with extended quality of life

• Why the **safety**: rationale & capability
  – War on terror era, secure, safety & privacy issues
  – Research strengths at Mason – as below

• Why **sustainability**: rationale & capability
  – Environment, economy, society and quality of life issues
  – Research strengths at Mason – as below

• Why **extended life quality**: rational & capability
  – All wish to extend life with quality; available technology
  – Research strengths at Mason – as below
Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Development

Globalization

Sustainability

Security & Infrastructure Protection

Governance & Public Policy

Life Sciences
Full Structure of Research Program & Initiative at Mason

Mission

Macro level - large centers or initiative areas

Meso-level clusters of capability: tactical tools for achieving mission & large centers

Micro level elements: the faculty & their skill levels

Envelop all of this in an integrated web presence model: individual faculty web pages up to mission page & vice versa
Sources of Research Funding

Federal & state
Foundations (NGOs & other non-profits)
Corporate community
Research funded by foreign national governments & development agencies
Donors
Intellectual property: technology transfer
Infrastructure development – non-Mason
Federal & State Funded Research: Sources

Legislative (congress)
- Appropriations & Authorization
- Unobligated funds – a hybrid model

Executive
- Competitive grants
- Discretionary grants
What is Mason doing to expand this source

- **Earmarks**: well honed process but this source is decreasing in importance
- **Competitive grants** funding - growing importance
  - Research office tracks all federal RFPs with assistance of Patton Boggs and others & disseminates to targeted faculty
  - Preparing research deans/faculty to establish lasting links to administrative funding agencies & congressional staffers
Foundations & NGOs

What is Mason doing to expand this source

- Tracking RFPs & disseminating information to targeted faculty
- Need a more systematic approach like that which is now evolving in approach to federal funding
- Need to build stronger network between these sources, research deans and faculty
Corporate Funding for Research

What is Mason doing to expand this source?

- Corporate engagement office to help build increased linkages where existing links do not exist
- Possible model: engage first in terms of need which is often training and retraining;
- Ultimately establish formal partnerships for ongoing research relationships (move to campus)
Foreign Governments & Development Agencies

What is Mason doing to expand this source

- Contracting problem regarding indemnification & liability clauses under Commonwealth Law
- Other Virginia universities have established non-profit organizations to facilitate contracting in these cases
- Proposing new organization to manage the problem; for now expand George Mason Intellectual Property Fund (GMIP) responsibilities to cover this
- Will invest more in developing this market as soon as we have a vehicle to manage the contracting issue
Donor Revenue

What is Mason doing to expand this source?

- Developing the integrated research structure & associated integrated web page so we can better explain what Mason’s research is & related outcomes to our mission & thus society
- Plan to form a Research Advisory Board in 2010 that will be used to raise large funds ($100 million) to support the Mason research program
  - Provide capital to support junior faculty research
What is Mason doing to expand this source?

- Mason formed an Office of Technology Transfer – OTT five years ago
- Patents, licensing & some company formation based on faculty scientific innovations
- OTT is beginning to generate revenue at about $200K per year
- Conducted external evaluation of OTT December 3-4, 2009