Research, Graduate Studies and Economic Development
Strategy Discussion with the BAAC

This is about research and research comes down to nouns: people, places and things. It is also about verbs: collaborating, raising, growing and helping…

What: The goal we have is to become an international hotbed for innovation and high technology startup companies in areas of specific strength for Mizzou;

1. Plant Science
2. Animal Science
3. Nuclear science and medicine
4. New media and information sciences
5. Interdisciplinary Sciences

Why: Increase MU’s stature nationally and internationally;

1. Raise the quality indicators for our institution and secure its position in the prestigious AAU,
2. Provide the federal funding agencies with real evidence that dollars invested at MU lead to tangible economic outcomes
3. Improve our perceived value to the state and its legislature by helping to grow new companies, to create jobs and to raise the level of prosperity for all Missourians
4. Elevate the prestige and value of past, present and future degrees issued by Mizzou

How: By following a simple five-part plan to the successful integration of our mission’s four pillars: research and scholarship, learning, outreach and economic development:

1. Collaborate and cooperate whenever and wherever we can for the mutual benefit of all parties involved
2. Manage intellectual property intelligently and thereby give it the necessary nuance and subtlety necessary for global success.
3. “Grow” our own entrepreneurs so that we can transfer the products of research and scholarly innovation to the market place
4. Unleash the willing – namely give permission to and support for faculty who seek to be innovators and who seek to have impact
5. Cease to be jealous and borrow shamelessly from those who have already solved the problem

What do we need to do?

1. Invest in our research and scholarly infrastructure over the next five years and beyond.
2. Invest in and raise the stature of our graduate education programs.
3. Realize the full potential of Mizzou’s research impact on the economy of the state and the region.
4. Market our successes and the benefits we bring to the citizens of Missouri to better our position in the hierarchy of state investments.
5. Integrate more, many more, undergraduates into the research and scholarly life of the campus across all disciplines.

What are the specifics?

1. Plant Sciences growth facilities i.e. greenhouses
2. Semi-Annual assessment of and investments in our research instrumentation infrastructure i.e. the Core Facilities
3. Clean room facility for high tech nanoscale science, especially at the intersection of medicine, engineering, plant and animal sciences
4. Facility for Translation Life Science – Translational Genomics
5. Funds for the renovation of older research spaces
6. Funds for hiring of top notch post-doctoral fellows
7. Funds for bridging between grants and contracts from the federal agencies
8. Startup funds for new faculty
9. Buyouts from teaching to allow for more research proposals to be written and submitted
10. Rewards for tenured faculty who voluntarily who take on and do more teaching if they are past the peak of their research productivity
11. Derisking and streamlining of the startup of NUCOs based on faculty innovations and inventions.
12. Strategic plan in development and fund raising for interdisciplinary research
13. University Fellowships and Top-ups for stipends to attract even better graduate students in our premier research areas.
14. Provide funds to allow more undergraduates to be engaged in at least a semester of meaningful research
Related thoughts and comments.

Ultimately, we will achieve at our highest level when we are able to communicate and demonstrate how MU’s research connects to and benefits the people in the state of Missouri.

We need to humanize our research and scholarly efforts.

We must make the products of our research more relevant and useful to better the lives of Missourians.

The research and scholarly enterprise of MU shall be woven into and through all the other enterprises we endeavor to do – namely teaching, outreach and economic development.

As a land grant institution, research is baked into our DNA.