

# Mission: Research

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Interim Vice President for Research

September 16, 2008

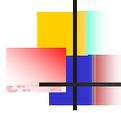


## Purpose of Briefing

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- › University Research
  - › What it is and why do we do it?
  - › Some issues that must be dealt with.
  - › How are we organized to provide the required oversight?
  - › How do we compare with others?
  - › How do we grow?

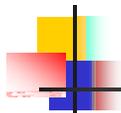




## Guiding Principles

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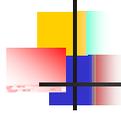
- › **Vision Statement:** “FAU aspires to be.....internationally acclaimed for its contributions to creativity and research.”
- › **Mission Statement:** “...FAU fulfills its mission through excellence and innovation in.....outstanding research and creative activities....”



## Guiding Principles (continued)

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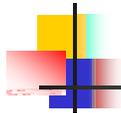
- › **Strategic Plan (Goal 3):**
  - “ FAU will develop academic and research programs of the highest caliber to support Florida’s strategic engagement in building an economy based on high technology and to foster



## A Different Perspective

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- › Creation of new knowledge is the one characteristic that distinguishes a research university from all other educational outlets.

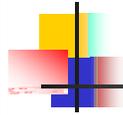


## A Quick Mind Game

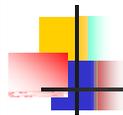
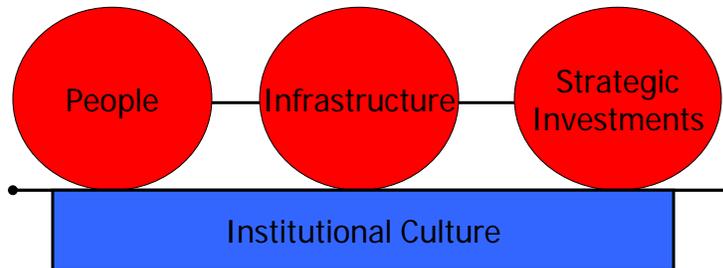
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- › Think of five of the top U.S. educational institutions.





## Three Critical Elements



## People

- › Faculty: recruit and retain the best. We compete in a national market so there are real costs and competitive pressures.
- › Students: Particularly graduate students. The best are highly competitive and they form the cornerstone of a strong research program.
- › Staff: Skilled and trained support staff are critical to provide strong laboratory and administrative support.



## Infrastructure

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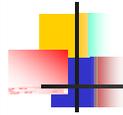
- › To support and enhance the technical aspects of all research efforts.
- › To insure institutional compliance with federal requirements.
- › To assist in the administrative aspects of research.



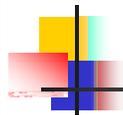
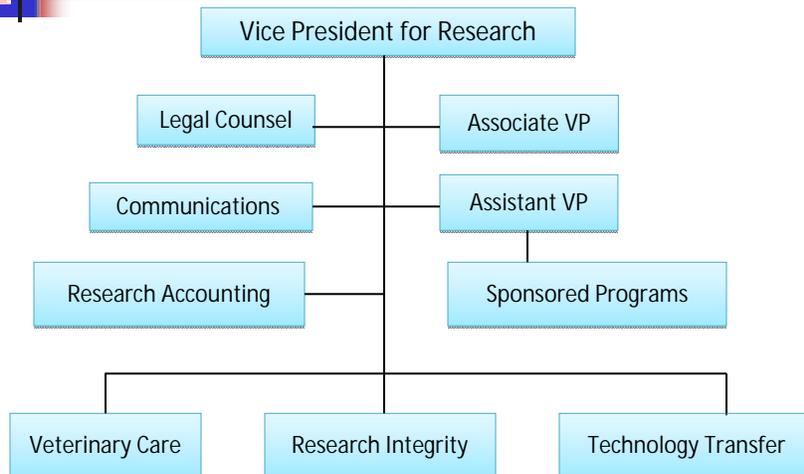
## Strategic Investments

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- › Relationship to local, state and/or national needs.
- › Availability of a source(s) of sustaining funding in order to leverage the investment.
- › Exploit niches to gain a competitive advantage.
- › Emphasize multidisciplinary or cross college efforts.
- › Identify leaders with a "fire in the belly".



## Research Administration at FAU

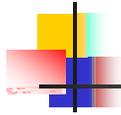


## Sponsored Research

- › Contractual relationship between sponsor and university for a specific scope of work.
- › Federal, state, industry, non-profits.
- › Usually follows competitive review of submitted proposal.







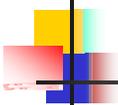
## Direct vs. Indirect Costs

- › Direct costs are those costs that are specifically related to one project (salaries, supplies, equipment, travel, etc).
- › Indirect Costs: (also known as overhead or F&A) are other required costs of doing the research but are not assignable to a specific project (utilities, electricity, HR, payroll, library, etc)



## Indirect Costs (Overhead)

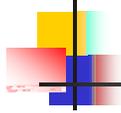
- › Negotiated with the federal government usually every 3-5 years.
- › Amount is calculated as a percentage of the direct costs. Our current rate is 42.5%.
- › Represents our break-even point.

The logo consists of a vertical line intersected by a horizontal line, with four colored squares (yellow, cyan, red, blue) arranged around the intersection. 

## Office of Research Integrity

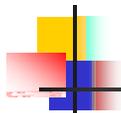
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- › Federal R&D funding to universities is approaching \$30B annually and this makes up



## Office of Research Integrity

- › The oversight for the use of animals in research is similar to that of human subjects.
- › Each area has strict mandates, wide discretion, reviews all protocols and maintains continual oversight.
- › Currently, these groups oversee more than 800 new or active protocols.



## Office of Technology Transfer

- › Manages and protects the intellectual property (IP) arising from research discoveries.
- › Deals with outside entities interested in licensing our IP and/or forming a start-up business.
- › Revenues generated are shared with inventor.





## Realistic Expectations for OTT

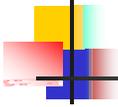
- › It can be a significant revenue generator to the university IF we hit a home run like reverse transcriptase at UC or Google at Stanford.
- › Important that we be viewed as *AN* engine of economic development and not *THE* engine.



## Office of Research Communications

- › Responsible for disseminating news and information to the media and both internal and external audiences.
- › Works with OCM to coordinate efforts.
- › Assists faculty with special events related to research, media requests, arranges interviews, manages web site, etc.





# Research Administration at FAU

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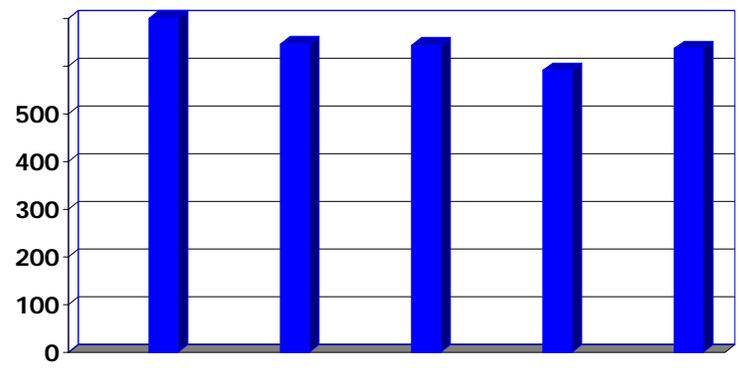


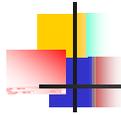
# Bottom Line: How are we Doing?



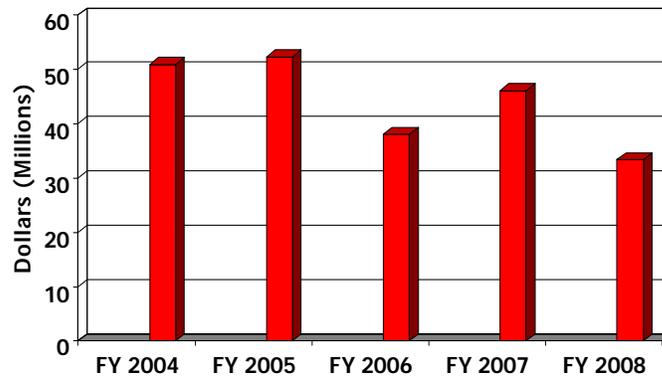
FAU  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH  
Florida Atlantic University

## Number of Proposals Submitted





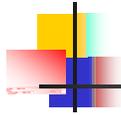
## Research Funding Trend



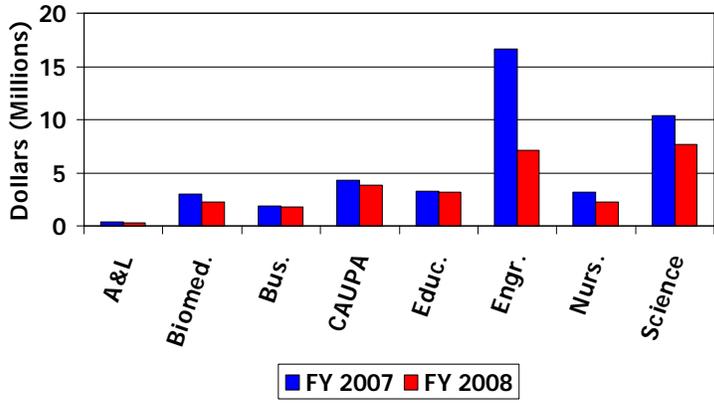
## Explanations

- › Increasingly competitive funding (e.g. NIH ~15%)
- › Loss of some quality faculty.

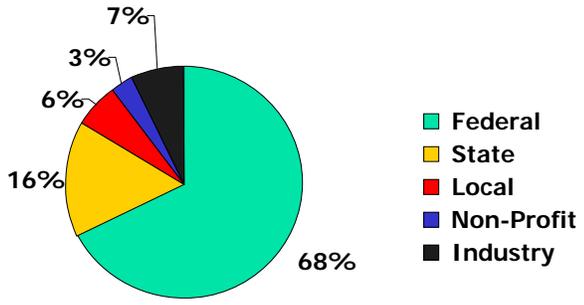




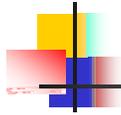
## FY 2007 & 2008 Funding by College



## Sources of FY 2008 Research Funding





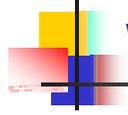


## Some Important Dates in FAU History

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- › First Ph.D. degree awarded in 1987.
- › Division of Research established in 2001.
- › First permanent Vice President for Research hired in 2001.
- › Conclusion: we've come a long way in a short time.





## We do have some unique resources

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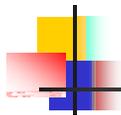
- › Scripps Florida



## Recommendations: No Cost

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- › President and BOT publicly emphasize the importance of research to FAU's mission.
- › Provost to encourage deans to make budget decisions strategically with one important consideration being future research growth.

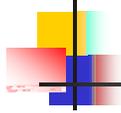


## Recommendations: Low Cost

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- › The VPR and the Division of Research must provide leadership to initiate and nurture targeted, strategic efforts in selected areas where FAU can be highly competitive.
- › Consider implementing a salary incentive program that will stimulate and encourage submission of proposals. (Also assists in faculty recruitment and retention).

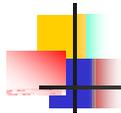




## Wrap Up

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- › Referring only to the calendar, FAU is a young and maturing research university.
- › FAU's recent research funding is, at best, stable but is not growing.
- › We have a base of talented, competitive researchers but significant research growth will require additional faculty in strategically selected areas.



## Wrap Up (continued)

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- › There is considerable unrealized potential and opportunities that can lay the groundwork for growth.
- › VPR and the administration must risk being unpopular by setting research priorities. No one has the resources to grow across-the-board.





## Convergence with Clearwire

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- › Increase contract/grant funding.
- › Start up funding for new faculty.
- › Upgrade major core research equipment.
- › Supplement grad student stipends in selected areas.
- › Establish cost sharing fund for proposals targeting major research equipment.
- › Fund for patent applications for promising technologies.



## Finally

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- › You are currently doing a national search for a permanent VPR. This is a very critical hire for the future of FAU.
- › Current economic times are, admittedly, challenging but planning can (and must) precede the actual investment.



