College of Health Needs Assessment Findings Summary
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Chair, COH Research Committee

At the fall College of Health meeting the research committee facilitated a brief discussion and a short written survey was distributed to assess the faculty needs related to increasing research productivity. Seventy faculty and 19 staff members were present at the August 16, 2012 meeting. The written survey focused on identifying the current supports, barriers, and generating a “faculty wish list” to create a research infrastructure within the College of Health.

Supports
When faculty were asked about “Things in place that are helpful to providing the research infrastructure necessary to successfully engage in external funding efforts” the most frequently reported support was the Grants and Contracts Officer as cited by 46% or 26 participants followed by the COH grant competition (12% or 7 participants). Other responses included having a proactive research committee, the incentive award program for external grant submissions, support from administration, OSP, University of Utah workshops, and statistical support.

Barriers
The top barriers to engaging in external funding efforts were time (42% or 27 participants), support and information (17% or 11 participants), lack of mentoring (14% or 9 participants), and lack of collaborators (8% or 5 participants). Other responses included teaching demands, lack of COH biostatistical services, and lack of equipment.

Remember Researcher Nominations are due 3/19
Contact Dr. Reel with questions
Faculty “Wish List”
Five main themes emerged when participants responded to the question, “If money was no object, what things would help build a stronger research infrastructure within the College of Health?” Space (i.e., lab facilities) was indicated as a need and one participant stated, “the HPER building is outdated and full. There are grad students who can’t even find space locally.” Another wish list item was more seed funding. Participants indicated that having research funds within the department would be useful for gathering pilot data needed to secure larger, external funding.

A third theme related to faculty contracts. Several faculty respondents requested differential appointments or 11-12 month faculty appointments, less teaching, or stipends for research activity. Having more support represented another theme emerging from the open-ended responses. Additional support was desired related to having graduate research assistants, support staff, grant writers, and statistical consultants. Finally, conference and trainings were identified as a helpful tool for supporting the development of a strong research infrastructure.