College of Education  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
Thursday, January 16, 2003  
Minutes  

Members Present:  Neal Berger, Bill Katzenmeyer (Chair), Kofi Marfo, Carol Mullen, Jim Paul, Michael Stewart  

Ex-Officios Present:  Lynn Lavely  

Members Absent:  Kathy Borman, Susan Homan  

Other Attendees:  Rebecca Wilkins  

Call to Order  

B. Katzenmeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.  

Review of Minutes  

November 21, 2002 minutes were approved by acclamation.  

College Council Report  

N. Berger, Council Liaison, reported at the January College Council meeting the Research Committee’s concern for establishing three to five thematic research themes for the College. Concern was expressed over prior work by the Research Committee (as well as other committees), which was passed by the Council but never reached fruition for their efforts. It was suggested a matrix be established with all the motions passed by the Council since its inception in 2000 to be reviewed by the Council’s Executive Officers and the Dean. At future College Council meetings the Executive Officers will give a report as to the status of approved motions.  

New Business  

The Dean’s request for assistance in developing 3-5 thematic research themes and a Research Theme Articulation Task Force were discussed at length. The consensus of the Committee was that the Research Committee would be happy to assist the Task Force in whatever capacity needed and this will be reported to the Dean.  

Adjournment  

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.
Next Meeting

The next Research meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2003 at 11:00 am in the DAC Conference Room.

Minutes Transcribed by

Rebecca Wilkins, Program Assistant
College Council, College of Education
November 21, 2002

Dear Harold,

I write on behalf of the members of the Research Committee of the College Council. Last Friday the Committee had the opportunity to review your proposal for establishing a Research Theme Articulation Task Force. We understand your charge to us was to adopt your proposal or a similar plan by December this year. We believe we share with you a desire to create a context for research that will broaden the participation of faculty and students in research that is relevant to the education enterprise, while supporting and enhancing our instructional programs.

We also understand your desire to move ahead expeditiously to implement a process that will identify the research themes, prepare action plans, and conduct other activities responsive to “our strategic directive to increase the research/scholarly productivity within the College of Education.”

While the December timeline does not seem realistic, the committee offers the following preliminary suggestions in response to your proposal. To assure a positive outcome, we believe the proposal needs to be given thorough consideration especially within the broader context of our college’s organizational structure, prior strategic planning efforts, and the work of this and other committees. Note: We have attached two of our committee’s proposals that were approved by the Council earlier this year, but have not yet been acted upon by Dr. Steiner or you.

Our suggestions:

1. We suggest that the members of the Research Committee, augmented by any additional appointments by your office, serve as the Research Theme Articulation Task. This decision would be efficient and effective in that it would build upon an organization structure already in place rather than creating a duplicative structure with similar responsibilities. Another advantage of this alternative would be that we could integrate the other work we have conducted for over a year, e.g., differentiated staffing to address teaching and research dimensions of our college. The resulting work of the newly comprised Committee/Task Force would then be offered to the College Council for consideration and review. We would anticipate that research buy-outs and graduate assistant support, as spelled out in your proposal, would be made available for Research Committee members should we be asked to conduct these responsibilities.

2. We recommend further discussion and examination of some of the assumptions bulleted in your proposal but stated as assertions. For instance, is it accurate that thematic research, sustained long term, focused on addressing issues of importance to the field is more likely to be externally funded? We suggest some additional discussion with you around questions such as: What is our common understanding of what thematic research means, and what implications establishing such
themes has establishing individual research agendas, increasing institutional recognition, or serving as an asset or barrier to promotion and tenure decisions? Reaching agreement on answers to these and other questions related to our values and beliefs about a research agenda for the College are needed to prepare the way for development of the a plan that will meet our shared desires and be accepted by faculty in a timely way.

3. These steps will require a more realistic timeline, conducive to urgent but thoughtful deliberation about achieving the desired outcomes.

We appreciate your desire to implement a process to expeditiously delineate research themes and associate action plans for the college. We hope that these suggestions will be of value to you in considering your next steps. The members would be pleased to talk with you further about this response and how we may be of assistance in the future. Thank you again for asking our Committee to review and comment upon your proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill Katzenmeyer
Chair, Research Committee
College Council

Cc: Members of the Research Committee of the College Council
Chair of the College Council
College of Education
RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Research Theme Articulation Task Force Members

Georgie Batsche
Michael Berson
Kathy Borman
Roger Brindley
Peter Ellery
Betty Epanchin
Janice Fauske
John Ferron
Jan Ignash
Carol Mullen
Jim Paul
Jenifer Schneider
Dana Zeidler