College of Education  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE 

Thursday, November 21, 2002 
Minutes 

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

Ex-Officios Present: Lynn Lavely 

Members Absent: Susan Homan 

Other Attendees: Rebecca Wilkins 

Call to Order 

B. Katzenmeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. 

Review of Minutes 

September 19, 2002 and October 17, 2002 minutes stand approved. 

Old Business 

The CARE proposal attempts to answer the important question of how can we function in a public school system and produce more productive interaction with our external constituents. At the April 2002 College Council meeting, the Council approved CARE in concept only with no funding approval. The idea of collaboration between faculty, community, local schools, etc. was felt would produce wonderful handiwork. It was suggested that external funding should be investigated for support of the CARE proposal. 

New Business 

The Dean charged the Research Committee with forming a Research Theme Articulation Task Force to develop three to five research themes focused on addressing issues of importance to the COE. The assumption was that by doing so it would make securing external funding more attractive. It was suggested that during the Spring semester approximately one dozen faculty members will devote one half their assigned time to developing a research agenda for the COE. The members discussed the Dean’s proposal and were concerned that those already working on research may be excluded from thematic research agenda selected unless the themes are written broad enough. The Committee came up with a counter proposal. 

The College of Education must move toward Research direction with as minimal internal friction as possible. Faculty can achieve goals when they collaborate with others who support same ideas. Development of a centralized system that would identify everyone and their interested areas would be a good starting point.
Committee Chair agreed to forward a letter to Dean Keller with the Committee’s suggestions included for his review (see attached).

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Research meeting is scheduled for January 16, 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...
College of Education  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A theme 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 develop 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