Focus: 50 to 100
Research Implementation Plan Tune-Up
November 2011
Introduction
The organization of this Tune-Up to the Research Implementation portion of the Focus 50-100 strategic plan has been modified to align with UNLV’s Core Themes that have been developed to address requirements in the new NWCCU Standard 1. The November 2011 Research Implementation Plan Tune-Up reflects feedback on key priorities identified in an August 2011 campus retreat.

Core Theme 1: Promote Student Learning and Success

- Strategically use Access Funds and increase funding for graduate student stipends, scholarships, and fellowships to attract highly qualified students, especially at the doctoral level.

- Leverage state-funded GA lines to encourage graduate student teaching, increase doctoral graduation rates, and promote research in targeted areas.

- Use electronic measures to provide greater convenience to students through streamlined business processes and to improve graduate student tracking, especially in areas such as admissions, retention, and progress toward degree.

- Provide new professional development opportunities for graduate students that encourage research, grant writing, and professionalization.

- Coordinate with graduate programs to encourage strategic recruitment of high quality applicants and diversity in admissions cohorts.

- Strategically build graduate program staffing commensurate with the number of programs and students.

- Facilitate the creation of innovative, dual-degree graduate programs to encourage student research and scholarship across disciplinary boundaries.

- Expand student learning experiences by increasing the opportunities for graduate and undergraduate involvement in research and scholarship.

Core Theme 2: Advance and Support Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity, and Sustainability

- Provide seed-grant funding that will help new and established faculty members to increase the amount of innovative and transformative basic research funded through competitive solicitations.
• Develop internal funding opportunities for faculty to complete scholarly activities in disciplines not traditionally able to secure competitive extramural awards.

• Work with external partners to increase applied and translational research by actively pursuing venture capital, seed investment, business incubation, planning and start-ups.

• Increase clustered research hires to build critical mass in specific research areas that are consistent with the university’s strategic plan.

• Reinvigorate the UNLV Research Council and continue outreach efforts with faculty stakeholders to create a campus-wide culture of excellence in research and scholarship.

• Continue educating the general public about the value of research and graduate education and publicize university research activities more broadly.

• Establish a university-wide mentorship program to foster the professional development of junior faculty members, and encourage smaller mentorship initiatives at the unit level.

• Create and adequately fund core facilities (e.g., buildings and laboratories) to enable collaborative research.

• Reward collaborative research in promotion and tenure and/or annual review and merit.

• Use the Digital Measures project to create a research expertise database and develop necessary electronic applications to facilitate faculty efforts to identify prospective collaborators.

• Increase quality and productivity of research, scholarship, and creative activity at the college/unit level by establishing clear goals and metrics.

• Maintain moderate teaching loads for research-productive faculty that align with accountability measures of each campus unit and provide other incentives for faculty to write quality, competitive proposals to external funding agencies.

• Provide funding for lab start-up, summer salary, first-year grant development, travel, and other resources and staffing (such as post-docs) to increase research and scholarship.

• Increase the number of endowed chairs and raise private funds directed toward nationally competitive graduate assistantships, fellowships, and scholarships.

• Re-establish a Technology Transfer office to oversee and ensure faster development of technology commercialization.

• Strategically build research staffing in key areas, commensurate with sponsored program and technology transfer activity.
• Continue providing funds for competitive grant-writing to improve the overall quality of proposals being submitted by faculty members.

• Elicit campus cooperation to provide the data needed for the university to submit a strong federal F&A application.

• Improve compliance communication and education.

• Implement research-related electronic initiatives, especially protocol service for IRBs and grant routing for sponsored programs.

• Improve research protocols and encourage faculty and graduate student participation in Responsible Conduct of Research training.

Core Theme 3: Foster Inclusion and Community Engagement

• Develop interdisciplinary research teams and graduate programs that address the needs of the community, state, and region.

• Facilitate collaboration with outside research partners to promote community partnerships and economic diversification.

• Establish an Office of Economic Development to ensure the university becomes a recognized partner in state and regional economic development, and a leader in entrepreneurial activity.