

**Pathway Goal:** Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity  
**Action Item #** 1-1

**Report:** Year-End: May 2018

**Action Item Description:**

Centers and Institutes Committee: Identify opportunities for university-level Centers and Institutes that promote interdisciplinary research and align with institutional strengths, regional needs, and research priorities. Areas of focus to involve policy revision, guidelines, and structure.

**Submitted By:**

Name	Department
Mary Croughan	VPRED

**Working Group Members:**

Name	Department
Bo Bernhard	Research and Economic Development
Brendan O’Toole	Engineering
Chris Heavey	Liberal Arts
Eric Chronister	Sciences
Glen Nowak	Liberal Arts
Gwen Marchand	Education
Kate Korgan	Graduate College
Rama Venkat	Engineering
Ruben Garcia	Law
Brian Hedlund	Sciences
Kyle Kaalberg (ex-officio)	President

**Process and Timeline: Provide a brief summary of the year-long process for your working group.**

Based upon reports from the past two years of individual and separate committees charged with addressing issues associated with Centers and Institutes, it was determined that a single committee charged with developing guidelines and policies to address the identified issues would be more effective. The committee has met once since being created in March 2018. Committee membership intentionally has overlap with the CCMIL committee that annually reviews all Centers and Institutes to ensure consistency between review criteria, guidelines and policies.

**2017-18 Accomplishments.**

**Work related to the interdisciplinary Health Disparities Research Initiative (future Institute):**

- A total of \$2.9 million was provided by UNLV to launch the Health for Nevada Initiative - Health Disparities Research Initiative and was received in 2017. The NV legislature has appropriated \$2.9M for FY 2018-19.
- We convened a group of deans and other campus leaders to discuss interdisciplinary faculty cluster hires. As part of this discussion we agreed upon a series of faculty hires with similar workloads, evaluation structures and incentive programs to not only have consistency among units but also to be sure we are rewarding and recognizing interdisciplinary efforts.
- Interdisciplinary hires focusing on health disparities have been made in Sociology and Economics, and searches have launched (or are about to) in Community Health Sciences, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences. In addition, a process for the inclusion of other units in interdisciplinary hires was established.
- A series of graduate assistantships were distributed to the participating units, and a summary of the work they have conducted in the area of health disparities was compiled by the Graduate College in spring 2018.
- The Director of the Health Disparities Research Initiative was hired, but unfortunately rescinded his acceptance several weeks later. Accordingly, we have launched the search again to fill this position.
- The VPR's office identified several consecutive offices in the Harry Reid Center and upgraded them to house the Health Disparities Research Initiative faculty, staff, and GA's.
- Enhancement requests for Health for Nevada funding are being submitted by NSHE to the State legislature. These additional funds will continue to support the Health Disparities Research Initiative, as well as launch initiatives in Sports Research & Innovation, and Neurosciences (with an emphasis on neurodegenerative diseases).

**Work Related to Centers and Institutes:**

- The newly formed committee met once this past year and identified several areas and issues that need to be addressed through guidelines and policies: reporting structures and personnel management for Institute and Center faculty; distribution of F&A funds; determination of fiscal models; incentive programs for research intensive faculty; and teaching and workload requirements, among others.
- The CCMIL also identified improved reporting procedures and formats that will be considered for implementation in the spring 2019 review process.
- The liaison committee members between CCMIL and this Top Tier Centers and Institutes Committee will ensure that these efforts are coordinated and consistent.

**2018-19 recommendations and next steps**

This subcommittee was reconstituted on 3/14/18, and the newly-formed, single committee will continue forward for 2018-19. This subcommittee will be known by the name Centers and Institutes.

**You may have reference material to attach to this report. Select from the list.**

No additional reference material

**OR**

Any material generated by this working group

**Additional information to include (optional).**

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**End of Report**

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