

January 23, 2015

**STRATEGY GROUP MID-YEAR REPORT**

**STRATEGY GROUP:**       **Collective Impact in Research, Scholarship & Creative Achievement (CIRSCA)**

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**PRIMARY GOAL:**        Elevate UMBC as a nationally recognized and regionally relevant research  
university. The key drivers in achieving this goal are: creating an inclusive  
environment for faculty and students, developing excellence in new intellectual  
frontiers, and fostering multidisciplinary and inter-institutional approaches that  
build research, scholarship, and creative achievement across the campus.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**    What are UMBC's current strengths in research, scholarship, and creative  
activities and the potential areas of growth?

What are the selected areas of research, scholarship, and creative activities  
that with targeted investment will elevate UMBC's national prominence in the  
next five years?

How do we utilize and extend our connections with local communities and regional assets to build on our strengths in research, scholarship, and creative achievement?

How do we promote, sustain, and grow multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional initiatives to maximize collective impact of our research, scholarship, and creative activities?

What priorities and metrics should be used to track progress and success in our goal to enhance UMBC's research, scholarship, and creative activities?

What resources are needed to attain our goals in research, scholarship, and creative activities?

**RESEARCH PROCESS:**

The CIRSCA strategy group seeks input from the widest range of internal and external stakeholders. We have collaboratively planned engagement questions and conducted analysis of findings after each session.

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:**

University Retreat 2014 breakout sessions; Deans, Vice Presidents and Senior Advisors Retreat; Chairs and Directors Retreat; Academic Program and Budget Committee; University Research Council; Research Center Directors; Research Administrators Group; Campus Strategic Planning Survey.

For spring 2015 CIRSCA will engage with departments through their college deans. Additionally, CIRSCA will focus on engaging students and external stakeholders including UMB, federal entities, and private sector industry. CIRSCA is currently analyzing results from the 2014 Campus Strategic Planning Survey.

**NOTABLE FINDINGS:**

- Focus on need for increased faculty and graduate students for research and creative achievement.
- Focus on improving "research infrastructure" (need to drill down to articulate explicit items).
- Desire for greater awareness/communication of research and creative activity across campus.
- Relative agreement on standard metrics of publications, external grants, prestigious awards/fellowships/recognition.
- Identified weakness in tracking research and creative achievement activity in FAR; hopeful Digital Measures will address needs.
- Stakeholders introduced the question of "barriers to research," which was not originally an explicit research question. We have incorporated questions on "barriers" to sessions.
- Ongoing challenge is how to articulate and synthesize areas for targeted investment from the range of stakeholder input across campus colleges and units.

**EMERGING THEMES:**

- Endorsement of UMBC's emerging identity as high research activity, but not universal acceptance.
- Endorsement of collaborative/interdisciplinary research, scholarship, and creative achievement (RSCA).
- Desire for greater awareness and communication regarding RSCA across campus.