Centers and Institutes at UNC-Chapel Hill

Barbara Entwisle
Vice Chancellor for Research
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Centers and Institutes Overview

• What are they?
• Why do we have them?
• How do we manage them?
• What do they contribute?
Centers and Institutes
Definition

Special-purpose campus units that:

- **Connect** departments, disciplines, institutions
- Drive **collaboration** and **problem-solving**
- Enhance the University mission: **instruction, research and service**
- Provide specialized **infrastructure, resources and support**
Centers and Institutes
Differences from Departments

• Usually **interdisciplinary**
• Pull together faculty and students from **multiple fields**
• Drive collision of **different ideas and perspectives**
• **Easily created; easily disbanded**
• Many seek applied **solutions** to tough, **real world problems**
• Some organize **rapidly growing bodies of knowledge**
• Some provide a home for **specialized academic topics**
• Often essential for **large federal grant programs**
Centers and Institutes
Numbers

• Within **UNC System** there are **237** centers, spread over 16 universities.
  – **UNC-Chapel Hill** has **80**
  – **NC State** has **48**
  – Non-research universities typically have less than 10

• Among **top 25** US research universities, **UNC-Chapel Hill** ranks **17th** in number of centers.
  – **Duke** ranks **16th**
  – **Wisconsin** ranks **1st** with **over 200**
Centers and Institutes
Governed by Policies and Process

• **UNC-GA Policy Manual 400.5[R] and UNC-Chapel Hill “Policies and Procedures Governing Centers and Institutes”**
  
  – **Govern planning, establishment, review and disestablishment** of all centers at Carolina and across UNC System
  
  – **Approval required** from the top to plan or to establish a center
  
  – **Require regular reviews** for mission consistency; relevance; non-duplication; success achieving objectives; fiscal soundness; solid leadership
  
  – Reviews lead to **continuation, modification or termination**
  
  – At Carolina, centers are governed by **formal review committee** appointed by Provost
Centers and Institutes
Termination of Centers

• Reasons for termination
  • Lack of resources
  • Completion of purpose
  • Failure to achieve purpose
  • Discontinuation of funding
  • Unnecessary duplication
  • Lack of congruency with mission

• Since 2009, UNC-Chapel Hill has terminated 15 centers
Centers and Institutes
Importance of State Funding

• Supports matching funds and cost-sharing requirements
  – At UNC-Chapel Hill, 25 centers use state funding or support for matches and cost shares

• Provides funds and resources required to pursue new grant opportunities
Centers and Institutes
Value and Contribution

86% of centers at UNC-Chapel Hill are degree-related

69% of centers at UNC-Chapel Hill are primarily engaged in research

Research
- Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI)
- Lineberger Cancer Center
- Carolina Population Center

Instruction
- Friday Center for Continuing Education
- Odom Institute
- Center for European Studies (Title VI)

Service
- Carolina Center for Public Service
- Jordan Institute for Families
- Morehead Planetarium
Centers and institutes are funded through:

- State General Funds
- External Funds
- In-kind Support

![Pie chart showing funding sources with External Funding at 92%, General Fund at 2%, and In-kind Support at 6%.]
State support is concentrated on degree-related centers that support the University’s education mission.
Centers and institutes attract large amounts of external non-state funds.

State General Funds $30.7M
In-kind Support $8.0M
External Funds $426.4M
Centers and Institutes
Value and Contribution

State dollars are invested wisely in centers and institutes to provide strong return on investment.

Leverage Ratio for all C&I’s 14:1
Leverage Ratio for State-Funded C&I’s 9:1

Full-time jobs 3,191

All Centers & Institutes

- 93% External Funds
- 7% State Funds

State-funded Centers & Institutes

- 90% External Funds
- 10% State Funds
Centers and Institutes
Value and Contribution

• Carolina Population Center (1971)
  • Solves public health and growth challenges for communities, nations and institutions
  • $700 million annual revenue
  • Headquartered in NC
  • 400 jobs in NC; 4,000 worldwide

• Lineberger Cancer Center (2008)
  • Develops drugs to protect cells from radiation or chemotherapy
  • $12.5 Series A Financing
  • Phase 1 clinical trial underway

UNC’s Kenan Institute supports the creation and growth of UNC start-ups.
Centers and Institutes
Service to the State

RENCI and Institute of Marine Sciences: Storm surge modeling in real time during hurricanes

Sheps Center: Projections of workforce in health professions for the state.

Highway Safety Research Center: Graduate driver’s license program for teens invented here.
Centers and Institutes

Summary

• Central to Carolina’s mission
• Major source of external, non-state funding
• A big source of new 21st Century jobs
• Part of how UNC-Chapel Hill gives back
  – Solving problems for North Carolina and the world.
• A smart investment