

VP FINK COMMENTS TO FACULTY SENATE
FEBRUARY 4, 2013

- 1) Research and Strategic Partnerships has been working with their Research Advisory Council (which includes Senators Daasch, Zurk, and Medovoi) to catalog the challenges and opportunities of conducting research at PSU. This will be an ongoing process, carried out in conjunction with the Deans and OAA. It is envisioned to be a component of the "ReTHINK PSU" exercise recently launched through the Provost's Challenge. We will keep the Senate apprised of our progress
- 2) The Research VPs from PSU, OSU, UO and OHSU have been working with the Governor's office and companies like Intel and IBM to develop a major proposal to upgrade the Information Technology infrastructure that links Oregon's four research universities with our partners. The goal is to enhance the state's innovation and entrepreneurship capabilities. The proposal is being integrated with plans to expand the state's business incubation facilities, like the Portland State University Business Accelerator, as part of an effort to plan for the next decade of the Signature Research Centers (OTRADI, Oregon BEST, ONAMI). The overall vision is to have Oregon become more competitive in attracting and retaining technology-based companies.
- 3) PSU's Associate VP for Strategic Partnerships Erin Flynn has been working with the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to obtain \$1.5M that the Economic Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce originally pledged to help build the Oregon Sustainability Center (OSC). Since the OSC plans were scrapped last year, there has been uncertainty about how these funds would be used. PSU and PDC have proposed using the money to upgrade the HVAC systems within the South of Market (PSU) Ecodistrict (which includes most of the PSU campus), to demonstrate that neighborhood-scale infrastructure can increase energy efficiency and save money. Ecodistricts are one of the signature concepts that Portland and PSU have contributed to global discussions about urban sustainability. This funding will help realize that idea. Some of the money will be used to help construct a visualization center to aid policy-based decision-making, modeled after (and networked to) Arizona State University's "Decision Theater" (<http://dt.asu.edu>). The visualization center will be housed on the ground floor of the Market Center Building. The chances of success of the proposal are high. A decision should be made by May.