

January 22, 2008

TO: Members of the Administrative Infrastructure for the Research Enterprise Task Force

FR: Gerald E. Lang, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research

RE: **Acknowledgement of the Task Force on Administrative Infrastructure for the Research Enterprise Report**

On behalf of President Garrison, I want to formally acknowledge the receipt of your report and to thank you for your commitment to this important activity.

Research is central to WVU's land-grant mission. WVU's Carnegie classification and national reputation are closely tied to research productivity. Consequently, the WVU 2010 Plan focuses institutional attention on enhancing research across campus.

I appreciate the work of the task force in evaluating the current administrative infrastructure, surveying current needs relative to the research enterprise, and providing recommendations for change. More effective administrative infrastructure systems are necessary to compete effectively for public and private research funding.

The task force report makes clear that further consideration must be given to the administrative infrastructure for the research enterprise. As recommended in the report, the University must develop processes to streamline its grant proposal, award, and management systems. I have asked Vice President Narvel Weese to work on these issues. One nearly complete action is the forthcoming release of an online procurement system for equipment and other commodities. This system will streamline procurement actions, thus permitting the faculty to spend more time on their grants and less time on administrative procedures. The administration will continue to examine proposals for reengineering the research enterprise.

Again, thank you for your dedication to improving the administrative infrastructure and support systems for WVU's research enterprise.

cc: 2010 Plan Implementation Team
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