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UMass LSTF November 16, 2007 Meeting Notes

Participants: Richard Antonak; Joan Becker; Jeff Brancato; Susan Braunhut; Anthony Carruthers; Brendan Chisholm; Tom Chmura; Nancy Cohen; Michael Collins; Terence Flotte; Paul Fonteyn; Anthony Garro; Greer Glazer; Michael Goodman; Steve Goodwin; Andrew Grosovsky; Bill Hogan; Paul Kostecki; Winston Langley; Carl Lawton; Michael Malone; James McNamara; Jacquie Moloney; Paulette Seymour-Route; Paul Vigeant; Marcellette Williams; Jack Wilson

- First meeting of the UMass Life Sciences Task Force (UMass LSTF)
- Overarching goal of the UMass LSTF is two-fold
 - To create a university-wide aspirant plan for the life sciences
 - To find ways to foster inter-campus collaboration in the life sciences
 - E.g. find ways to attract more UMass undergraduates into UMass Medical School programs
- Creation of UMass LSTF and its subsequent work is timely and of direct importance to the University
 - This is the “life sciences moment”
 - University has a tremendous opportunity to position itself to receive significant state investment in the life sciences due to its statewide reach and robust life sciences research efforts
- **Discussion of the “pillars visual”**
 - Concept of the pillars emanated from a letter Chancellor Meehan wrote to Chancellor Collins
 - The thematic areas within the pillars emanated from the campus visits conducted by Chancellor Collins, Tom Chmura, Jeff Brancato and Brendan Chisholm to better discern the nature and extent of life sciences related research and activities occurring on each of the UMass campuses
- Is there anything missing from the “pillars visual” or should any wording or concepts be further refined?
 - Behavioral Medicine should be changed to Behavioral Health in the 6th pillar to become more inclusive
 - 6th pillar should also include lifestyle change/obesity to address this growing life sciences issue
 - 6th pillar should become Environmental Sciences and Wellness to become even more inclusive and to reflect strengths within the UMass system

- High performance computing, computational sciences should be included in first pillar
- Where should immunology, toxicology and virology go?
- What about food safety and bioterrorism?
- Individual campuses should be removed from the pillars
 - Lead campuses for each pillar must find ways to incorporate those campuses with less developed efforts in certain research areas
- What is the philosophy between the pillars?
 - Is there overlap?
 - Are they silos?
- Relationship between Commonwealth's life sciences initiative and the thematic areas of the pillars
 - Commonwealth's initiative addresses 3 interrelated areas
 - Improving research activity
 - Improving health outcomes
 - Spurring economic development
 - How are our core facilities and research efforts supporting economic development and community wellness?
- Are the pillars in response to the Commonwealth's life sciences initiative or broader than the initiative?
 - Pillars partly in response to the Commonwealth's initiative, particularly the Technology Innovation Centers pillar which speaks to the Governor's call for regional innovation centers
 - Content experts throughout the University system should drive the pillars, not the campuses and not the Commonwealth's initiative
- What are the pillars supporting?
 - Pillars supporting Commonwealth's initiative?
 - Pillars supporting activities within the University?
 - Pillars supporting the UMass mission: research; teaching; service?
- The pillars when considered together will support the following:
 - Diversity
 - Economic development
 - Wellness
 - Statewide leadership
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Service
 - Public/private partnership
 - Environmental stewardship

Note: Pillars Visual 6.0 reflects suggestions made during the first UMass LSTF meeting

- **Action Items:**
 - Six working groups formed from the pillars
 - Each working group has two co-chairs from different campuses, an administrative staff from across the University

- Each campus will have a life sciences contact to facilitate UMass LSTF work
- Co-chairs and corresponding staff members will work with each other to find times to meet to develop a work plan
- Working groups should meet before the end of January
- UMass LSTF will meet in early February to review initial work of the working groups