Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Town Hall Meeting on Grand Challenges
at IU Bloomington

Whittenberger Auditorium
Monday, May 11, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Grand Challenges

Broadly, as defined nationally:

“Ambitious but achievable goals that harness science, technology, and innovation to solve important national or global problems.”

“Research initiatives to solve major societal issues with a team-focused approach to experimentation and breakthroughs in science and technology”
Grand Challenges

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Examples of Compilations:

White House 21st Century Grand Challenges
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges
Field (and agency) specific: global health, science, engineering, development, social work, etc.
NSF, DoE, NASA, DARPA
Grand Challenges

Examples – University Grand Challenges

- **UCLA: sustainable LA** – “Thriving in a Hotter Los Angeles”
  Achieving 100% Sustainability in Energy, Water and Biodiversity by 2050

- **Princeton: Climate and Energy**
  Development: poverty in Africa, conserving biodiversity & natural resources
  Health: prevention & treatment of infectious diseases across globe
...at IU Bloomington

- Originally part of IU Bloomington Strategic Plan (informed by many)

  “Harness strengths in all areas to identify and address grand challenges: initiatives that attack big questions and whose answers lie beyond the frontiers of current knowledge that require collaborations among disciplines, departments, and schools”

  Our campus has distinct strengths in the arts & humanities, in science and technology, and in the highly ranked professional schools
...at IU Bloomington

- Originally part of IU Bloomington Strategic Plan (informed by many)
- Aligning with Bicentennial Strategic Plan, all campuses

“Identify the GCs to which IU can contribute most effectively, building on strengths in the humanities, professions, and social, natural, and clinical sciences. IU will support multi-disciplinary and multi-campus teams to address those GCs facing Indiana, nation, and the world.”

Provide targeted seed funding to assist faculty in pursuit of the GCs, become more competitive for external funding, and pursue a strategy of “cluster hires” of outstanding research faculty in areas of strategic importance to the university.
...at IU Bloomington

- Originally part of IU Bloomington Strategic Plan
  Provost/Vice Provost for Research

- Aligning with Bicentennial Strategic Plan, all campuses
  President/Vice President for Research

- Change from Fall 2014; now system-wide
  President & Provost have decided in consultation with current Vice President for Research that the GCs as an initiative are to be launched by the new VPR after appointment this ~August

*Impacts timeline*
Process: faculty-driven, bottom-up

Likely procedure: (subject to possible change, new VPR)

- Request for applications/concept papers
  Few pages: Concept/theme idea
  Campus & community partnerships
  Leveraging IU funds
Process: faculty-driven, bottom-up

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  ~Fall 2015 semester
  Campus & community partnerships
  Leveraging IU funds
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- Review by committee of faculty, and possible external reviewers

  - Example criteria: impact, new external funding, publications & creative activity, enhance reputation

  Look for commonalities and synergies

~Fall 2015 semester
Process: faculty-driven, bottom-up

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- ~Fall 2015 semester
  Campus & community involvement
  Leveraging IU funds

- Review by committee of faculty, and possible external reviewers
  Example criteria: impact, new external funding, publications & creative activity, enhance reputation
  Look for commonalities and synergies

- Select teams invited to submit detailed proposals for future review & selection
Process: faculty-driven, bottom-up

Likely procedure: (subject to possible change, new VPR)

- Request for applications/concept papers
- Review by “blue-ribbon” committee of faculty, possible external reviewers
- Select teams invited to submit detailed proposals for future review & selection

Select ~1 GC per year, funding for 5 years, up to 5 Grand Challenges

Includes possible cluster hires
Can be considered in subsequent years
plus Emerging Areas of Research

Program unique to Bloomington campus

Identify key areas of current or emerging research strengths and make campus-level strategic investments to advance areas of disciplinary or interdisciplinary promise in which we can become national and international leaders.

Up to six areas of strong research promise over the next five years, characterized by the strength and capacity of current faculty to carry out most, if not all, aspects of the research, with gaps to be filled with postdoctoral scholars and through collaboration with other nationally and internationally recognized institutions.

Questions?
Office of Vice Provost of Research

Provide resources, coordination of IUB efforts

Agenda

- Overview
- IU Foundation Jennifer Lawrence, IU Foundation
- Office of Engagement Tony Armstrong, IU Research and Technology Corp.
- Proposal Development Services Meryl Bertenthal, OVPR PDS
- Research Collaborations RvK, Jin Chen, OVPFAA
- Potential Grand Challenges Faculty Interest Grps, Open-mic session Show of hands
Follow-up

- Collaboration software
- Workshops from PDS
- Second Town Hall, ~Fall
- OVPR Grand Challenge web site
  http://ovpr.indiana.edu/grandchallenges
- Distribution list
  iub_grand_chall-l@indiana.edu
  https://list.indiana.edu/sympa/info/iub_grand_chall-l