

## Memorandum

TO: Evelyn Jacobson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Susan Fritz, Associate Vice Chancellor for IANR  
Ellen Weissinger, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

FROM: Barbara Couture, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
John Owens, Vice President and Vice Chancellor for IANR  
Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor for Research

DATE: August 16, 2007

RE: Recommendations on Interdisciplinary Centers

This memorandum is in response to your report of November 20, 2006 (attached), in which you addressed issues related to establishing and maintaining interdisciplinary centers. Your report took into consideration the report from the "Taskforce on Interdisciplinary Initiatives," chaired by Professor Susan Sheridan, and discussions held with the following subgroup of center/initiative directors: Professors Ken Cassman, Michael Fromm, Kyle Hoagland, Sally MacKenzie, Larry Rillet, David Sellmyer, and Susan Sheridan. This report has now been reviewed by our deans, by the Senior Administrative Team, and the Research Advisory Board.

We will enact the following in response to your recommendations:

The list of Best Practices for Center Agreements and Appointments will be posted on SVCAA website, VCIANR website, and VCR website.

The Offices of the SVCAA, the VCIANR, and the VCR will hold an annual meeting, to be chaired by the SVCAA, where Center Directors may attend and bring organizational concerns to our attention, have the opportunity to network to solve common problems, and discuss best practices. Additional meetings will be called should the need arrive. The posted list of best practices (see #1) will be distributed or discussed at these meetings.

The SVCAA, VCIANR, and VCR agree that center directors should have input into annual evaluations of faculty members who have apportioned appointments in centers; likewise, we agree that center directors should have input into tenure and promotion decisions for non-tenured faculty who have apportioned appointments in centers and whose work in the centers is related to their tenure case.

Thank you for the work you have completed; we look forward to implementing the measures defined here and encouraging the continued success of UNL's academic centers.

c: Harvey Perlman, Chancellor