



University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
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Class C Bulletin No. 468

Resolution Concerning Fostering
Multi-Unit Interdisciplinary Research

Class C Resolution adopted at the March 13 2008, Faculty Senate Meeting

WHEREAS, UW President Emmert has stated that because of interdisciplinary research "the UW is one of the few places that can tackle the biggest, most complex, and most challenging problems of all time." (<http://www.washington.edu/research/impact/index.php>); and,

WHEREAS, the University of Washington's statement of vision and values states that "We foster creativity, challenge the boundaries of knowledge, and cultivate independence of mind through unique interdisciplinary partnerships." (<http://www.washington.edu/discovery/discover.pdf>); and,

WHEREAS, the National Academies report on *Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research* states that "Interdisciplinary research can be one of the most productive and inspiring of human pursuits that lead to new knowledge" and that "Despite the apparent benefits of interdisciplinary research, researchers pursuing it often face daunting obstacles and disincentives" including: "culture barriers" and "the traditions of organizing research by discipline-based departments . . . commonly mirrored in funding organizations, professional societies, and journals" and that "Good leadership can assist interdepartmental interactions, which are often hindered by organizational structures."(http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11153&page=16); therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following shall be a formal consideration in the evaluation of all academic administrators (e.g., Deans, Department Chairs): **evidence of initiating, fostering or supporting interdisciplinary activities involving their unit with other units across the university.**

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
February 25, 2008

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
March 13, 2008