Gallaudet Research Priorities

Clerc Center
National Mission Advisory Panel
February 2, 2003
Research at the University

• One of the three fundamental areas for faculty productivity
• The list also includes: teaching and service
• A special role at Gallaudet where there is the need for concentrating scholarly research on priority areas
Three “kinds” of research

- Research focused on deafness
- Research focused on deafness in schools
- Non-deafness, discipline-based research

Our role, as research administrators is to stimulate all three types of research.
Support mechanisms

- Priority research grant fund
- Small grant research fund
- Office of Sponsored programs
- Faculty release time
- Faculty evaluations
- Gallaudet Research Institute
Gallaudet...shall establish and disseminate priorities for their national mission with respect to deafness related research, development, and demonstration activities, that reflect public input, through a process that includes consumers, constituent groups, and the heads of other federally funded programs. The priorities shall include activities conducted as part of the University’s elementary and secondary educational programs under Section 104.
GPRA mandates are a little contradictory

- 4.1 Public input satisfaction assessments. Conduct periodic assessments to determine if the University and KDE/MSDD are obtaining appropriate public input on all deafness-related research, development, and demonstration activities from infancy through adulthood and satisfaction levels for these activities.
Yet...

• 4.2 Respond to student needs. *Increase the percentage of research projects that focus on the needs of deaf and hard of hearing students.*

Increasing percentage of “type 2” research means decreasing percentage of other research? Not necessarily consistent with the directions our University departments going.
Purposes of Having Research Priorities

- Public declaration of areas that support the University’s mission and that respond to relevant legislation
  - Makes possible public input
  - Connects Clerc Center and University missions
Purposes of Having Research Priorities

- Gives guidance to specific campus units for the initiation and support of research:
  - Gallaudet Research Institute
  - Office of Sponsored Programs
  - Priority Research Fund
  - Clerc Center

- Encourages research by faculty in areas of institutional importance
University Research Priorities: Three-Year Cycle

• Year One, Fall:
  – Review by campus-wide panel resulting in modifications to existing priorities
    • Clerc Center priority areas included
  – Internal feedback from campus community
  – Incorporation of changes and administrative approval
University Research Priorities: Three-Year Cycle

- Year One, Spring/Summer
  - Prepare revised priority list for external feedback
  - Submit priorities to NMAP for comment and discussion [Proposed]
  - Incorporate NMAP comments [Proposed], then solicit further feedback through GRI Newsletter and Website
  - Finalize modified priority list based on feedback
University Research Priorities: Three-Year Cycle

• Years Two and Three
  – Publicize modified priorities internally and externally
  – Describe process and report new priority list to DOE in Annual Report
  – Receive suggestions from field via internet
  – Look for “targets of opportunity,” especially regarding priority areas given insufficient attention
Advantages of the Process

• Allows for purposeful, though gradual modification of research priorities to meet changing circumstances
• Provides mechanisms for community involvement in priority setting and receiving public input
• Provides yardstick for gauging public satisfaction with Gallaudet research
• Publicly connects Clerc and University missions
Recent examples of how the priorities and the process influence research

- **Solicitation of faculty proposals to fill a gap:**
  - “How do people acquire ASL as a second language?”
  - Excellent proposal developed by faculty in three departments working together and “shopped” to a foundation

- **GRI projects in direct response to feedback:**
  - “High Stakes Testing” Conference (Nov. ’02)
  - National Norming of 10th Edition of the Stanford Achievement Test