

Developing a Faculty Scholarship Environment in PUIs.
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Below we present some ideas about how can the office of Sponsored Research help develop faculty scholarship, especially in a Predominantly Undergraduate Institution (PUI) such as some units in the SUNY system, are.

These ideas were implemented during our tenure of eight and a half months, as a half-time employee. We tried to develop an environment of successful faculty scholarship at SUNYIT, the Utica NY SUNY Institute of Technology, in the tradition of Professor Ernest L. Boyer's paper: *Scholarship Reconsidered*

<http://teachingphilosophyworkgroup.bgsu.wikispaces.net/file/view/BoyerScholarshipReconsidered.pdf>

This type of scholarship includes basic research as a very important category, but expands its meaning way beyond such single activity.

After taking an initial survey, to help orient our efforts, requesting faculty input on the state of the scholarship at SUNYIT, the following activities (among others) were conducted or proposed:

1. help establish a monthly faculty lecture series, known as **Provost Lecture Series**, which started in February: http://www.sunyit.edu/provost_lectures I want to thank Dr. Sam Yahalom, of SUNY Maritime, for his many and excellent suggestions that helped me expand this task.
2. develop a group of **peer SUNY PUI Campus Sponsored Research officers** (this is us), to exchange information and analyze common problems in our area of interest. The group would also facilitate contacts between faculty from different Campuses, with similar interests.
3. **consider submitting an REU** proposal to NSF. After exploration with selected faculty, we realized that *SUNYIT still needed to prepare conditions* for such award, which include some of the items below
4. **develop a Campus Student Research Day** like other SUNY units and other PUIs have, This component would help strengthen SUNYIT position for submitting a future REU proposal.
5. **engage SUNYIT in the ESF environmental research group** known as **GLRC (Great Lakes Research Consortium)** and other such inter-campus faculty research organizations
6. **develop a data set with selected SUNYIT faculty researchers**, identifying keywords and areas of interest, used to periodically send information on funding opportunities and events.
7. **develop a general scholarship environment** through: departmental activities, *support of joint faculty projects* with industry and community organizations, and student research clubs.
8. promote the creation of an **internally funded student summer research program** at SUNYIT

Some of these ideas were derived from our fourteen-year of experience as a SUNY faculty in a PUI Campus. We took early retirement in 1998, to join IITRI, an academic research organization because, at that time, our research efforts were poorly supported and recognized by our Institution.

The work we developed at SUNYIT attempted to create a scholarship environment there that minimized attrition of faculty, who would leave in search of research opportunities elsewhere. We also sought to strengthen the level of competitiveness of faculty and of the Institution, in future proposals.

Some successes were obtained. But the described experience as a whole did not succeed. For, all the above mentioned activities can be considered as “research and development” efforts. These consume resources today, in the hope of strengthening the Institution capabilities, tomorrow. R&D activities do not directly contribute to Sponsored Research, whose principal and very legitimate objective is to obtain research funds for the Institution.

Therefore, we strongly believe that a more efficient way to carry out the above-mentioned activities is through independent and well-defined small projects, developed via consulting, or from a specifically defined unit, and not as part of a Sponsored Research office.

We may want, in the future, to pursue these activities further, but under such other structure. If the reader, or others that you know, is interested in pursuing such ideas, please contact us through the SUNY Cortland email of the Juarez Lincoln Marti Project:

matresearch@cortland.edu

And we will be happy to study a joint collaboration on such Project.

Meanwhile, I will go back to the **Juarez Lincoln Marti International Education Project**, which I have somewhat neglected in the past few months, due to the intensity of the SUNYIT’s OSR work. We plan to apply there, many of the lessons learned here.

We hope some of the above challenging ideas may help faculty, in Primarily Undergraduate Institutions, develop their scholarship, in the midst of a heavy teaching schedule, with very limited graduate courses, and few or no Ph.D. students to work with.

For, we should always keep in mind that, when a PUI faculty submits an article for publication, or a proposal for funding, they are implicitly competing with other faculty, from institutions such as MIT, Stanford, Princeton and Harvard, or Rutgers, UB, Penn State or Stony Brook, who enjoy all these superior advantages.

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