Undergraduate Research Profile of Association of American Universities (AAU) Member Institutions

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Research performed in preparation for the inaugural trans-college Undergraduate Symposium at the University of Oregon in May 2011 and the launching of the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal. The attached spreadsheet identifies the Carnegie Classification (“Basic” and “Undergraduate Instructional Program”) and presents the data collected in four key areas of institutional support for undergraduate research:

1) centralized office and/or significant trans-unit/college program of undergraduate research and accompanying URL
2) university-wide journal of undergraduate research
3) university-wide symposium/conference on undergraduate research
4) other services offered to undergraduate research

A summary of findings appears below.

Of the 63 AAU Member Institutions (January 2011):

- 59 of the 63 had a formal, centralized office/unit coordinating undergraduate research
- 49 of the 63 had annual/semi-annual university-wide undergraduate research symposia; and an additional 10 of the 63 had multiple, department/college-level symposia
- 31 of the 63 had a university-wide journal of undergraduate research; an additional 13 had department/discipline/program-level journals of undergraduate research

After reviewing the websites for all 59 institutions with an undergraduate research office and hosting an undergraduate research symposium, I identified the following nine institutions as promising models:

1) SUNY-Buffalo
2) University of California-Irvine
3) UCLA
4) University of Florida
5) University of Michigan
6) University of Minnesota
7) University of Missouri
8) University of Southern California
9) University of Washington
The attached spreadsheet also signifies the UO’s eight officially-recognized public university AAU comparators. (Indiana University, University of California, Santa Barbara, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, University of Washington).

Of these eight comparators:

- 8 of the 8 had a formal, centralized office/unit coordinating undergraduate research
- 5 of the 8 had annual/semi-annual university-wide undergraduate research symposia; and an additional 2 of the 8 have multiple, department/college-level symposia; and 1 had a centralized funding program to send undergraduates to present at regional/national conferences
- 4 of the 8 had a university-wide journal of undergraduate research; an additional 2 have department/discipline/program-level journals of undergraduate research

Finally, a broader informal survey of institutions beyond the AAU did find several schools that combined the undergraduate and graduate events on the same day, or along a timeline suggested similar to the UO "Celebrate Undergraduate Achievement Week" inaugurated in May 2012. Many institutions hosted a joint keynote address by a resident or visiting scholar and/or an inaugural session that officially opened both the undergraduate and graduate events, whether hosted on the same day or a week apart. Others hosted the keynote address after both the undergraduate and graduate events as part of a concluding awards luncheon/award ceremony that recognized all participating students and faculty mentors; and awards prizes to those presenters whose work earned distinction from a judging process. Institutional Examples of Combined/Coordinated Undergraduate & Graduate Research Events:


- **Oklahoma State University.** OSU Research Week: 23rd Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference. The Research Symposium is held Wednesday, February 22 through Friday, February 24, 2012. Combined graduate and undergraduate. [http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/events/ressymp/default.htm](http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/events/ressymp/default.htm)