

April 12, 2011

From: Dr. Grace Hampton, Senior Faculty Mentor
Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity
and
Dr. Sylvester Osagie, Faculty Engagement Coordinator
University Office of Global Programs

Re: Senior Faculty Mentor Collaborative Research Initiative

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing as a follow up to several suggestions made during discussions with individuals who attended the last annual Senior Faculty Mentor reception, and in subsequent conversations over the past several months. Those in attendance indicated that they were pleased to see that the annual reception showcased the research of untenured scholars. In addition, a number of faculty members also suggested that it would be helpful if my office could find ways to increase networking among tenured and nontenured faculty with similar research interests. The exchange of ideas, generation of new ways of looking at issues, especially across disciplines can be intellectually invigorating, and possibly lead to collaborative research and individual and group publications. Collaboration can also enhance the potential visibility of the work of a group of individuals. The collaborative effort could potentially draw attention to the completed work within his or her own discipline.

With an increasing focus on the integration of knowledge within and across the disciplines, some research is arguably made much more productive as the various contributors on a research project bring their special expertise and knowledge to bear on a specific problem. In addition, the trend toward the funding of collaborative and multidisciplinary research continues to increase. Given the interest expressed by some of you and the potential for increased productivity and the funding possibilities that might grow out of interdisciplinary and collaboration research, we plan to hold a series of conversations across the disciplines among minority faculty.

We would like to begin scheduling the collaborative research meetings in May. In order to schedule productive conversations with individuals of similar interests or with groups that may be willing to form an interesting combination, we need the following information from you. Please take a minute to respond to the questions below.

1. Describe the focus or foci of your research:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. If you were to collaborate with one or two other disciplines, what other disciplines of research are of interest to you?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

If you have questions about this initiative, please contact Grace Hampton at 814-865-8113 or gxh2@psu.edu or Sylvester Osagie at 814-867-4276 or soo1@psu.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.