**RESEARCH**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the Research area is to optimize the research, scholarly, and creative endeavors of faculty, staff, and students. Implicit in the mission is fostering grant seeking activities, growing proposal numbers and amounts, and improving the success rates of external funding requests.

**PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

The Office of the Vice President for Research promotes, encourages, and provides assistance for research, scholarly activities, and creative endeavors for all disciplines of the University faculty, staff, and students. The office also facilitates the transfer of knowledge in the form of know-how, discoveries, creative works, inventions, and processes resulting from research and scholarly activities by faculty, staff, and students to the private sector to support economic development.

Quality research and scholarly initiatives enrich the academic community at WKU and beyond to our broader constituencies. Basic and applied research enable the faculty, staff, and students to focus upon innovation and discovery and address needs of the local community, region, state, nation, and world.

The Office of the Vice President for Research, in support of the WKU mission and vision, provides leadership and support for programs, opportunities, and activities designed to promote:

* The research, scholarly, and creative activities of students, faculty, and staff;
* Significant and sustained increases in federal, state, local, and private research funds;
* Significant and sustained increases in private grant-supported research funds;
* Grant opportunities to support a comprehensive research agenda; and
* Grant opportunities to support the WKU Quality Enhancement Plan theme, “Engaging students for success in a global society.”

The Office of the Vice President for Research fosters the intellectual community, be it in traditional classrooms, the research laboratory, or through electronic media. The University’s institutional theme of student engagement underscores the Office’s expectations for students and faculty alike to participate in the discovery process. Although WKU has grown in size, reputation, and accomplishment, the Office holds firmly to WKU’s tradition of student centeredness and its vision of becoming “A Leading American University with International Reach.”

**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

University departments reporting to the Vice President for Research include the Office of Sponsored Programs. Allied units are the WKU Research Foundation and the Center for Research and Development.

**GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

The Research division, working together with other WKU units, is responsible for leading, coordinating, and advancing the University commitment to research endeavors. To this end, the main focus of the Division will be to involve faculty, staff, and students in significantly increasing the amount of financial support for research efforts awarded to WKU. Specific goals for the division include:

* Focusing scholarly efforts on WKU’s priorities, including research funds with specific emphasis on externally supported grants and projects;
* Increasing the total assets of the WKU Research Foundation;
* Increasing the number of faculty and staff who submit quality research proposals;
* Facilitate the growth of companies and commercialization opportunities through the Center for Research and Development;
* Increasing the number and amount of externally funded research grants awarded to WKU; and
* Increasing the number of research scientists working at WKU.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

 **2009-10 Revised Budget\* 2010-11 Proposed Budget**

 **Pos. Unrestricted Budget Pos. Unrestricted Budget**

Educational and General

Personnel/Fringe Benefits 14.0 1,374,621 16.0 1,618,961

Operating Expenses 3,792,081 3,935,904

Capital Outlay 133,200 58,200

 Total Expenditures 5,299,902 5,613,065

Educational and General **Pos.**  **Restricted Budget** **Pos. Restricted Budget**

Operating Expenses 24,853,000 26,273,000

Student Aid 400,000 400,000

 Total Expenditures 25,253,000 26,673,000

\*For comparison purposes, the 2009-10 Revised Budget figures have been adjusted to reflect University reorganization occurring during FY10.