

Office of the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer

The following summary is a result of three meetings of the Task Force, a committee charged to discuss and document the faculty's expectations regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer (VPRTT) and the administrative functions this position oversees. Page two of this document lists specific services that the faculty feel the RTT office should be responsible for; it is broken into three categories: Research Vision, Research Education, and Research Administrative Tasks.

The VPRTT, a senior officer of the institution, is empowered through authority and financial resources to make strategic research decisions and accelerate the research enterprise at Mines. This position is responsible for the creation of the research vision, setting tangible and measureable goals that support this vision. The VPRTT shall work closely with the President, other members in the Executive Team, and the Mines' research community to implement strategies aligned with this vision and with the existing strategic plan, and that lead to the initiation, integration, enhancement, and growth of research activities across campus.

The VPRTT shall be involved in national and international initiatives to identify emerging research opportunities that will guide the research agenda. This engagement shall inherently lead to the establishment of collaborative research partnerships that ultimately increase Mines' visibility locally, within the state, nationally, and internationally. Maintaining highly prominent research will ensure our ability to competitively attract key faculty and top tier students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

As a visionary and scientific leader, the VPRTT must be able to identify emerging research areas, niches, and opportunities of growth, and work with the administration, college deans, and department heads to hire key faculty that support Mines' research role.

The Office of the Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer (OVPRTT) shall ensure the effective operation and implementation of administrative functions and policies that are imperative for the research community to succeed. A priority of this office is to support interdisciplinary research within the research centers and institutes, promote innovation and economic development through strategic partnering and technology transfer initiatives. Additionally, the office provides administrative support for sponsored programs, including identification of funding opportunities, proposal submission, research compliance, contracts and grant administration.

The OVPRTT shall work closely with the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and Academic Affairs to integrate research, education, and entrepreneurship at both the graduate and undergraduate levels with the goal of creating an environment that fosters efficiency and excellence in both research and scholarly activities conducted by students and faculty.

Specific services that the faculty feel this office should provide/maintain

Research Vision

- Establish a strategic and forward-looking research vision for the campus
- Advance Mines' visibility as a top research institution, both nationally and internationally
- Promote a strong research culture on campus, including (support for) the organization of topical research workshops, conferences, and symposia on campus and the dissemination of research outcomes and outputs in collaboration with the public relation office.
- Facilitate, identify, and promote research opportunities and collaborations between the academic units at Mines in existing and new fields of research
- Develop and nurture collaborations with industry, national labs, and other academic institutions in existing and new fields of research
- In collaboration with the OGS, develop strategies for increasing the number of graduate fellowships at Mines and enhance recruiting activities
- Promote, maintain, and oversee relationships between Mines researchers and donors (directly and through the Foundation)
- Develop an industry incubator on campus

Research Education

- Develop, maintain, and oversee research experience for undergraduate students on campus
- Advance development of entrepreneurial programs, especially for faculty and grad students
- Work with OGS to ensure that the visions for both research and education are well coordinated

Research Administration

- Provide administrative support for faculty pursuing large research proposals
- Work closely with lobbyists in DC in pursuit of opportunities for Mines faculty
- Oversee essential core facilities on campus (major equipment, institutional research space, cost recovery structure, service contracts, etc.)
- Oversee and support acquisition of major research instrumentation
- Promote efficient operation of research centers on campus and promote establishment of interdisciplinary research institutes
- Restructure policies for more strategic and equitable distribution and utilization of IDC return
- Restructure/rethink the role of the Research Council – staff with high-level researchers and use as a council to the VPRTT (?)
- Restructure/rethink the roles of Associate VPRs and how the OVPRTT works with the colleges/departments
- Participate in discussions on strategic hiring initiatives that will enhance the research enterprise
- Advance the development of intellectual property on campus and increase licensing of IP
- Evaluate the realignment of the reporting structure of ORA (?)
- Oversee compliance (human subjects, responsible conduct of research, research misconduct)
- Evaluate the realignment of the reporting structure of the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Help develop mentoring strategies for junior faculty (CAREER proposal workshops, etc.)