April 15, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

I write to inform you of the final funding decisions for this year’s Strategic Academic Planning Committee (SAPC) process, and to outline the plans for the second year of SAPC funding.

As you may recall, the SAPC invited 10 teams to prepare an expanded Phase 2 proposal from the initial 72 concept papers received last November in Phase 1. All 10 teams submitted creative proposals reflecting an enormous amount of effort and ingenuity by a large number of individuals from across multiple colleges and schools. The quality of the final proposals was outstanding, with each team of investigators addressing the criteria set forth for the proposals and describing the project’s potential for significantly advancing research in areas of national and international importance. I am extremely grateful to the many faculty members who worked tirelessly on each of these 10 proposals.

After a careful, detailed, and extended assessment of the Phase 2 proposals in light of the published selection criteria, and aided by comments from distinguished external reviewers, the SAPC recommended allocating the funds available to support 5 of the 10 proposals. Father John Jenkins, Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves, and I accepted the committee’s recommendations. The principal investigators and titles of these 5 funded proposals are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Bohn</td>
<td>Advanced Diagnostics and Therapeutics - Molecules to Nanostructures to Cells and Beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Collins &amp; Jeffrey Schorey</td>
<td>Genomics, Disease Ecology and Global Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Porod</td>
<td>NDnano - The Notre Dame Nanoelectronics Research Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Roche</td>
<td>The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Smith</td>
<td>Notre Dame Integrated Imaging Facility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional details on the funded proposals, including an abstract of the work to be performed and a complete list of participating faculty, are available at http://provost.nd.edu/academic-resources-and-information/sapc/SAPCawardees.shtml.

The funded proposals include:

- Two that reflect an exciting expansion of existing research strengths at Notre Dame (the proposals on nanoelectronics and global health).

- A new research initiative at Notre Dame that has the potential to be truly groundbreaking (the proposal on advanced diagnostics and therapeutics through the use of micro-instrumentation).

- A new integrated research resource that brings together a broad array of imaging instruments, services, and expert users that will be indispensable for several research groups at Notre Dame including those working on some of the funded SAPC proposals (the imaging core facility).

- A new effort to create a multidisciplinary “think tank” at Notre Dame that will attract leading scholars from around the world to collaborate with Notre Dame faculty and students. Together they will work on topics of special interest to our faculty that have the potential to advance scholarship consonant with the University’s distinctive mission (the Institute for Advanced Studies).

Overall, the proposals funded are varied in their reach, methodology, and emphases, but alike in their potential to help Notre Dame more quickly achieve its goal of being among the handful of the truly preeminent research universities.

The Phase 2 proposals not chosen for SAPC funding are also of excellent quality, as judged by the SAPC members and the outside reviewers, and have the potential to advance significantly Notre Dame’s research success. Vice President Bob Bernhard and I will do everything we can to work with the investigators on these proposals to find ways to advance their research. Bob will also hold similar discussions with the investigators of several Phase 1 concept papers who were not part of the Phase 2 competition, and in some cases has already been successful in obtaining support for these efforts.

Overall, this first year of SAPC funding has, to date, met the ambitious goals we set for the program. Of course, the final determination of success is years away and will require significant faculty effort if it is to be fully realized. Thanks to the efforts of many people, especially the faculty members who submitted proposals for both Phases 1 and 2, the program is off to a promising start. We know of many collaborations that, even though not resulting in SAPC funding, have initiated exciting new efforts by faculty members who had not previously worked together. There is much more that can be and must be done to provide the support needed by our faculty to elevate their research success to a higher level. I look forward to
Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Thomas G. Burish

cc: Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.