



JOSE V. SARTARELLI, PH.D.

CHANCELLOR

To: UNCW Faculty and Staff
From: Jose V. Sartarelli, Chancellor
James J. Winebrake, Provost and Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs
Re: Doctoral Transition Task Force and Implementation Plan
Date: October 12, 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is three-fold: (1) to share the [Final Report](#) and recommendations from the [UNCW Doctoral Transition Task Force \(DTTF\)](#); (2) to introduce a [five-point implementation plan called Embracing R2](#); and, (3) to describe the next steps of the implementation process.

The DTTF Final Report

While the world, nation, and campus continue to wrestle with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it is causing, it is important for UNCW to proceed with its foundational work to fully embrace its status as a Doctoral University: High Research Activity (R2) status. We are grateful for the efforts of our DTTF, which submitted a final report last April after many months of discussion and deliberation. In the [report](#), you will find numerous recommendations on how UNCW can continue to evolve as a Doctoral University with High Research Activity – and how the administration should support efforts to expand research activities commensurate with an R2 school. We hope you will take some time to review this important report.

Embracing R2 Implementation Plan

Reclassification to R2 was not unexpected. Our doctoral programs and sponsored research activities (the two criteria used in the Carnegie Classification System) were on a trajectory to exceed the R2 thresholds. However, we now need to implement plans to better support sponsored research, scholarship, creative work, and graduate education commensurate with this R2 status. After several meetings among deans, faculty, and administrators, we have established the [Five-Point Implementation Plan for Embracing R2](#). This plan builds from the DTTF recommendations by identifying five focal themes:

- Providing Incentives and Support for Research Activity;
- Adjusting Faculty Workload & Compensation;
- Developing New Academic Programs;
- Supporting Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars; and,
- Building Research Infrastructure.

Next Steps

Embracing R2 will guide next steps of strategic decision making and new investments to address the recommendations made by the DTF. It will be an ongoing process that will take time, attention, and resources. With this memo, we are charging the Associate Provost for Research and Innovation, Dr. Stuart Borrett, to lead the Embracing R2 implementation. He will work with the faculty, staff, and administration to accomplish the goals identified, and will report progress regularly to campus.

Conclusion

As identified in the DTF report, UNCW's strengths include a student-centered campus with high-quality teaching and an emphasis on powerful learning experiences, community engagement, and applied learning opportunities. Expanding research, scholarship, and creative activities, and growing graduate education will provide UNCW new opportunities to build upon our current core strengths and deeply held values. We are confident that these efforts will enhance teaching and learning opportunities for undergraduates, strengthen our positive impacts on graduate students, and increase our contribution to solving problems critical to North Carolina and the world. We look forward to working with the entire UNCW community as we embark on this important journey!

If you have any questions about the attached materials, please let us know. You may also direct questions to Dr. Stuart Borrett, Associate Provost of Research and Innovation.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON
601 SOUTH COLLEGE ROAD • WILMINGTON, NC 28403-5931
TEL [910.962.3030](tel:910.962.3030) • FAX 910.962.4050 • EMAIL CHANCELLOR@UNCW.EDU