



Values and Visions

TRANS-INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

- * Aim to identify or address problems and questions that are **ambitious, innovative, and inspiring**;
- * **Create or extend collaborations** and synergies across multiple fields, advancing the commitment to “One Vanderbilt”;
- * Position Vanderbilt to be a **world leader** in a given area;
- * Focus on both **research and teaching**, ensuring *education of the whole person: enabling qualities and life long learning* for all undergraduate, professional, graduate and professional students
- * Speak to and address problems that resonate with the broader public.



What Is “Trans-institutional”?

Definition: *Trans-institutional Programs (TIPs) create new and valuable knowledge by interweaving relevant perspectives, features, methods, and information from two or more disciplines. The term “trans-institutional” is intended to encompass both “interdisciplinary” and “multidisciplinary” approaches.*

- TIPs focus on problems, not disciplines, and assume that effective solutions to any important problem requires the expertise of many disciplines.
- TIPs includes educational and research components, and involve faculty and students (undergraduate, professional, and/or graduate).
- TIPs must spark new faculty collaborations across different disciplines.
- A TIP is an entity that is greater than the sum of its parts, fostering synergy.
- *ONE VANDERBILT should support TIPs and TIPs should contribute to 1VU.*



2002 Strategic Plan impact on Vanderbilt TIPs

Launched the Academic Venture Capital Fund

\$100M invested in new interdisciplinary programs

Eleven Initial Initiatives linked to a theme of

“Humanity, Minds and Matter”

“Vanderbilt has made significant strides in forging internal relationships and connections across schools and disciplines... The creative spirit promoted in these centers has enhanced faculty recruitment and retention as well as created an appreciation for the role of disciplinary strength in solving problems that are interdisciplinary in nature.”

- 2012 – Ten Year Update on the 2002 Academic Strategic Plan



The 2013-14 Strategic Plan, TIPs Council, the Incubator

- The Strategic Plan recommended establishing a school-wide TIPs Council to develop criteria for guiding investments in new and existing trans-institutional programs.
- The Council's charge is to diversify and strengthen our research and teaching portfolio.
- It is often hard to predict which proposals will blossom and flourish. Success of any TIP depends upon a myriad of hard-to-predict factors such as the talents, skills, and interests of scholars on campus and the nature of the inquiries being conducted.
- With rapid and evolving changes in global and national challenges, new questions and problems are always on the horizon. To be both opportunistic and responsive, as well as to leverage most effectively precious institutional resources, priority was given to initial "incubator" phases for small scale collaborations (or initiatives) to be tested before advancing to bigger programs, and hence, greater investments.
- This strategy also allows opportunistic actions when unexpected, exciting, new collaborations arise.



Differences between 2002 and 2013-14

- 1) More small bets on ideas
- 2) Expect failure, take risks
- 3) Not “centered” focused
- 4) Five year roll out of TIPs
- 5) Give bigger role to learning and teaching
- 6) More transparent
- 7) More faculty driven



Why Now? Why TIPs?

- 1) 2002 effort broke down barriers
- 2) Good time for strategic investment
- 3) Vanderbilt's competitive advantage



Three “Types” of Proposals

- 1) Seed Grants (most common)
- 2) Support of Existing Centers
- 3) Bigger proposals with College based support

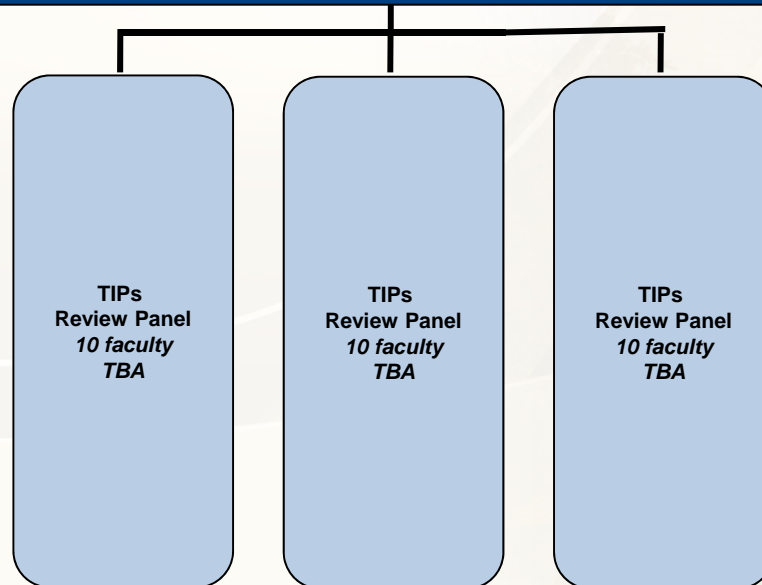


TIPs Council

A small group of 10 faculty colleagues who represent diverse perspectives, have shown a strong sense of public spiritedness, who are major figures in their own field, and who exhibit broad tastes.

The size is a critical feature here

Rules on conflict of interest



Some Early Details, NOTHING settled yet

- Pre-proposals of 3 pages in length are due December 2nd—the proposal should describe the idea in 2 pages, indicate who is involved, and offer a rough budget.
- Council will provide initial reactions by 12/19/2014 (prior to holidays)
- Full proposals of a max of 6 pages, not including budget requests, are due by 1/30/2015.
- Deans of the involved Colleges will need to support undertaking.
- Review Panels will make their recommendations to the TIPs Council by 3/16/2015
- TIPs Council will announce decisions by 5/1/2015
- Maximum amount for seed grants? The requested amount of money will influence chance of success, since we want to make as many investments as possible.
- Final budgets to be negotiated by Provost Office and/or Dean of SOM



Other Functions of the TIPs Council

- Chancellor Faculty Fellows
- Discovery Grants
- Research Scholar Grants

