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Institute for Watershed Resiliency (IWR)

Committee for Centers and Institutes (CCI) Review – Spring 2024 – AY 2023-24

CCI RECOMMENDATIONS

Keep on active status.

The Institute for Watershed Resiliency (IWR) has documented a substantial amount of activity noted in 2022-23. However, the cover memo for the 5 year review does not document the full highlights and activities from the past 5 years of operation as the Water Resources Institute (WRI, instead focusing on recent activity since its transition to the IWR.

The IWR focuses on its mission to lead and advocate for community-university partnerships that seek to mitigate and resolve complex water resources issues across diverse social, economic and environmental landscapes through environmental education and stewardship. The primary objectives of the IWR include:

- Promote, develop, and sustain activities that mitigate water-centric issues across social, economic, environmental landscapes through interdisciplinary learning, service and research.
- Develop and facilitate collaborative agency-university workforce and professional development opportunities for students, educators, and community resource practitioners.
- Build, lead, and sustain partnerships and collaborations that provide resources for IWR program focus areas.
- Elevate best practices and innovations that support activities to promote the equity of water resources across watershed landscapes.

The activities noted in their current report seem well aligned with this mission and specific objectives.

COMMENTS

6. C.1 – The success of the Ancillary Unit in meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the original approved proposal:

It appears that with the pivot to becoming the IWR, a significant focus has been placed on establishing a new mission and goals that align with the current needs of the community and specific issues related to water-specific careers and research.

All the activities documented are consistent with the mission of the IWR and demonstrate that they have the potential to scale their impact and become an even more valuable resource to the campus and community. The past efforts to create the Regional Water Fellows Program, engage in multi-year research efforts and apply for a range of targeted grants in excess of \$3 million represent significant activity. Plans to increase funding are noted as key activities during the current academic year.

The outlined activities for the current academic year are substantive and within the scope of the stated goals and objectives of the IWR.

6. C.2 – The effective use of all internal University support:

Based on the data provided for the current operating year, the IWR receives a very small amount of funding from University sources, focused on salaries and assigned time. It appears that the funding has supported the program and allowed it to establish a new set of goals, constitute a new advisory board and generate a funding plan while managing the delivery of its existing programs. Thus, it appears the IWR has been effective in leveraging its internal support.

6. C.3 – The success of obtaining external support and the use of that support:

The IWR has successfully raised external funding through grants and contracts which is denoted as covering salaries, assigned time and supplies and other expenses. Based on the information provided, it appears that a significant amount of external support through grants and contracts is ending or has ended during this academic year, and proactive efforts are being made to replace these funding sources. If the IWR is able to secure some or all of this funding as noted in its report, it will result in a largely self-sustaining operation.