To Purdue University Faculty Members

Re: Membership in a Discovery Park Center

Date: 20 October 2003

In fall 2001, President Martin Jischke received a commitment from the Lilly Endowment for funding to develop Discovery Park. Discovery Park will support and house innovative large-scale interdisciplinary activities that are essential to understanding and solving the complex issues in society today. Specifically, Discovery Park will enhance interdisciplinary research in nanoscience, bioscience, learning, and e-enterprise with strong support for entrepreneurship among faculty and students. The long-term vision is to transform the generation of knowledge and the integration of knowledge in Indiana businesses and communities.

The creation of this highly innovative discovery, learning, and engagement cluster is well underway. Ground has been broken for three of the five currently planned facilities—the Birck Nanotechnology Center, Bindley Bioscience Center, and the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship. Funds are being raised for Discovery Learning Center and the e-Enterprise Center. I have been appointed as an Executive Director to direct Discovery Park and to coordinate and integrate the activities of each center. Directors and Co-Directors have been appointed for each Center: James Cooper and Richard Schwartz, co-directors for the Birck Nanotechnology Center; Joe Pekny, director for the E-Enterprise Center; V. Jo Davisson and George Wodicka, co-directors for the Bindley Bioscience Center; Richard Cosier, director for the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship and Jonathan Harbor and Margaret Rowe, co-directors for Discovery Learning Center.

Funding is available for faculty research and programs that further the mission and vision of Discovery Park. The selection of faculty to receive funding from the individual centers will vary by center. The first two centers will utilize faculty membership lists as a mechanism to distribute information and to solicit applications for funding while the Bindley Bioscience Center will use a list of “Affiliates” to solicit applications for funding. The enclosed materials describe, specifically, what is meant by the terms “member” or “affiliate” and list the benefits and responsibilities of such association. In general, an application to be a “member” or an “affiliate” of a center in Discovery Park indicates that a faculty member’s research program is directed towards the mission of an individual center and that the research is interdisciplinary involving faculty from outside the principal investigator’s academic home. Moreover, an application to be either a “Member” or an “Affiliate” of a center signifies a commitment to further the goals and mission of Discovery Park.

Faculty may be associated with more than one center and are encouraged to submit multiple applications for either membership or affiliation. Submission of an application to one center does not associate the faculty member automatically with the other centers in Discovery Park.
A significant benefit to membership or affiliation in a center of Discovery Park is the connection with the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship. This Center is the link between Purdue faculty, staff, and students and Indiana communities and businesses. Courses and workshops will be offered. The staff will facilitate contacts for faculty entrepreneurs with funding sources. Additionally, the facility will be a meeting ground for faculty from many disciplines and will host activities designed to bring faculty together.

Discovery Park was the inspiration of President Martin Jischke and has the strong support of Provost Sally Mason. The directors are excited about the opportunities for Purdue faculty that Discovery Park provides. Faculty involvement is critical to the success of the centers and to the broad vision for Discovery Park. I encourage you to read the enclosed materials about the Birck Nanotechnology Center, the e-Enterprise Center, the Learning Center and the Bindley Bioscience Center and to reply to the membership and/or affiliation call wherever you see linkages. 

You do not need to apply again if you are already a current member. New ideas and programs are being created at a rapid pace. We hope to have wide faculty involvement that includes representation from many disciplines.

To apply for membership/affiliation in the Birck Nanotechnology Center, the Bindley Bioscience Center, the Learning Center and/or the e-Enterprise Center, go to:

http://www.purdue.edu/DiscoveryPark/

Please click on membership/affiliation and complete the on-line form.

Please feel free to contact any of the directors if you have specific questions. They would be happy to talk with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charles O. Rutledge
Executive Director, Discovery Park

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