

Date: March 10, 2005

To: Associate Dean for Research

From: R. Timothy Mulcahy, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research

Re: Charge to Council of Research Associate Deans

It was recently brought to my attention that although you meet regularly as a group and work on numerous issues surrounding the operation and infrastructure of research, there has never been a written charge guiding the committee's activities. Although I am not interested in formalities or written documents for their own sake, I think that a clearly stated purpose is necessary for the success of any committee. Development of a charge for the committee also provides me with an opportunity to define how I hope the Council will interact with me in my role as Vice President for Research.

The leadership positions you hold in your colleges and schools make you my closest colleagues in terms of responsibilities, focus, perspective, and objectives. As such I hope that you will work collaboratively with me to strengthen the research capacity of the University of Minnesota. Since our collective experience and expertise are critical to our continued success, I would like the Council of Research Associate Deans to function as an interactive advisory board to the Office of the Vice President for Research. Specifically, I would invite you to:

- Bring for consideration and discussion environmental factors and changing conditions that could impact achieving research goals
- Recommend approaches to take advantage of these opportunities or to meet challenges, including changes to internal policies and practices
- Exchange information on resources, collegiate best practices, and strategic strengths and direction to help inform strategic decisions
- Identify initiatives that would be mutually beneficial
- Promote the breadth and depth of our faculty's research, scholarship, and creative activity to all constituencies

I hope you agree that these are important issues that will benefit by our collective engagement. I look forward to working with each of you and with CRAD.

cc: Edward Wink
PAS