Guidelines for CWC Core Projects

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The purpose of this document is to build new CWC core projects. See the CWC web page for more information on existing core projects (http://bprc.osu.edu/dev/cwc/projects/). Core projects are integrative of colleges and researchers, building teams that address the CWC founding questions and provide opportunity for sustained growth. Contacts are Doug Alsdorf (alsdorf.1@osu.edu), Jerry Bigham (bigham.1@osu.edu) or Berry Lyons (lyons.142@osu.edu).

Core Project Guidelines:

Core project descriptions should be 3 to 5 pages in length and address the following four points. The appendix of this document contains a format for core project descriptions whereas the CWC web page provides summary descriptions of existing CWC core projects. Please email Doug Alsdorf for more detailed descriptions.

(1) Describe the project. The project is expected to directly address one or more of the three founding questions (questions are noted in the appendix). Identify the question(s) and name the leader(s) responsible for project completion. Cross-campus integration and inter-disciplinary research is strongly encouraged.

(2) Describe the products or deliverables as they relate to the selected question(s).

(3) Describe how the project will become self-sustaining during CWC funding and after CWC funds end.

(4) Give a timeline of expected accomplishments and related CWC costs. These will be used by the CWC to ensure that the project is on schedule.

The Selection Process:

The CWC desires to allow all OSU colleagues an opportunity to participate in CWC research. The selection process involves two-steps. The first step is for a team to assemble their ideas and discuss them with the CWC senior leadership, i.e., Drs. Alsdorf, Bigham, or Lyons. The dialogue will help the team hone its ideas and ensure they are aligned with the guidelines (above). The team's ideas will also be discussed among the CWC advisory board to ensure a fit with the CWC goals. CWC personnel are actively meeting with colleagues whose research is aligned with CWC goals, whereas the circulation of this document will bring others to the fore and allow them equal opportunity to develop their ideas, with guidance from the CWC.

The second step involves writing and selection. Teams whose ideas are aligned with the CWC will be asked by the CWC to write a description following the guidelines noted above. The CWC advisory board will review this description and make a decision. External evaluations will be sought to ensure fairness in the refereeing. Final selection will need approval by the OSU deans who oversee the CWC.

Suggested Project Budgets:

CWC core projects are expected to be funded at about $100,000 to $300,000 per year for two to four years. Annual reviews will be conducted to ensure progress, however no guarantee of funding beyond one year is implied. This level of funding allows for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty to all receive funds and become fully engaged in CWC research. It also allows for equipment, infrastructure, and travel. Funding at levels less than $100,000 per year is likely to fall into the category of a CWC "seed grant" (described at http://bprc.osu.edu/dev/cwc/projects/). Overhead is not a part of these funds and should not be included in the budgeting. Significant funding for non-OSU personnel is not encouraged; rather

such researchers should be brought to OSU with CWC funds under a visiting scientist role, to work directly with the team.

Timeline for Implementation:

The first new core project is expected to be added to the CWC by Summer 2008. Additional new core projects will be added as funds are available and as projects become clearly needed by the CWC. There is no set number of new core projects, but expectations are that the number will be approximately 4. There is no annual call for core projects, rather this could be an ongoing opportunity, depending on total funds available. Steps 1 and 2 described in the Selection Process (above) are expected to take about three to four months. The due date for core project proposals is May 23, 2008.

Appendix

The Three Founding CWC Questions:

The CWC recognizes that science alone will not provide the greatest impact on society, thus policy is intimately connected with the three science questions.

(1) Does human intervention have the potential to push the climate system such that abrupt changes become more frequent, intense and rapid?

(2) Do we have enough surface water to maintain society; i.e., what is the spatial and temporal variability in terrestrial surface water storage and how can we predict these variations more accurately?

(3) How is the carbon cycle being disrupted by human activities (e.g., fossil fuel combustion) and how can the cycle be re-balanced to mitigate ACC and its adverse effects?

What is a TIE?

The CWC is a Targeted Investment in Excellence. "Targeted" is accomplished by ensuring that all actions are focused on the three founding questions. "Investment" is accomplished by ensuring that every OAA dollar spent leads clearly and obviously to more dollars and hence to a program that is vibrant after the 5-year OAA investment period. "Excellence" is recognition of the past successes of those participating in the CWC, with the expectation of future excellence.

Format for a Core Project Description:

Teams are requested to use the following format for describing their core project.

Core Project Title

1. Project Description:

This project is designed to directly address the CWC question of… This should be followed by a few paragraphs describing the project. This section is probably most similar to a typical summary section of a proposal submitted to a federal agency such as NSF.

2. Products and Deliverables:

Describe in this section the expected outcomes from the core project. For example, the team might be building a computer based model designed to assess the water cycle. The model would be a deliverable. A product might be something of value to industry, foundations, philanthropy, or federal granting agencies. For example, the water cycle model might allow the

team to carefully address important questions on drought or flooding, both of which have value leading to potential new funds and, hence, sustained growth of the core project.

2.A: Subsections with some detail:

Here, the team might want to provide some detail about their products and deliverables.

2.B: Another Subsection:

Again, more details might be needed.

3. How the Project Will Become Self-Sustaining:

The CWC is a TIE, not a grant. Grants give money with no expectation of future growth. The TIE invested funds are expected to grow and allow the CWC a sustained operation well after the 5-year allotment of OAA funds. It is imperative that core projects show clear pathways to new moneys. These would probably most clearly be directed at federal agency opportunities, but hopefully, each core project will have demonstrable opportunity for funding support from industry, philanthropies, and/or foundations. The CWC will assist core projects in this growth.

4. Timeline of Expected Accomplishments and Related Costs:

Total Funds = $X

The timeline of expected accomplishments and related costs will be used by the CWC to ensure that the core project is operating as expected. The following is only a suggestion that allows teams to gain an idea of what this section might entail.

<u>End of First Year of Funding, Fall 200X:</u>
Total first year funds, $X

1. Hire personnel. Name the people, $X
2. Travel to collect data, $X
3. Develop preliminary version of deliverable or product, $X
4. etc.

<u>End of Second Year of Funding, Fall 200X:</u>
Total second year funds, $X

1. Continue to fund personnel, $X
2. Publish preliminary results, $X
3. Submit proposal for new, external funds, $X
4. Develop more refined model, $X
5. Hold workshop at OSU, $X
6. etc.

<u>End of Third Year of Funding, Fall 20XX:</u>
Total third year funds, $X

1. Fund personnel, perhaps at reduced rate because a new grant is won, $X
2. Publish refined results, $X
3. Submit additional proposals built upon findings of core project, $X
4. Secure funding from non-federal agency? $X

<u>End of Fourth Year of Funding, Fall 20XX:</u>
Total fourth year funds, $X (perhaps very modest, say $20K)

1. All personnel expected to be funded by external sources, no cost
2. Publish final results, $X
3. Hold final workshop at OSU, $X