OUR CHALLENGE  With increasing competition for declining research dollars, the University of Minnesota must identify appropriate and sustainable metrics related to research to demonstrate its progress toward becoming a top three public research university. In addition, the University must build a culture of documenting and measuring research while taking into account the diverse outputs of research across its units.

FINDINGS

1. Individual units collect research data in multiple ways but there is an expectation that OVPR is the central repository.

2. The University uses a narrow set of research metrics to track its progress toward its goal and the impact of research is not currently measured.

3. Interdisciplinary research is inconsistently defined across the University system, making measurement challenging.

4. Unit leaders express varying levels of awareness of reports provided by OVPR, as well as varying needs for communication and discussion about research metrics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop an enterprise-level system to track research metrics.

2. Focus on measuring the impact of University research and also capture additional metrics at the system level to better represent the breadth of ongoing research.

3. Define interdisciplinary research and develop a standard approach for its measurement.

4. Create a comprehensive plan for communicating and sharing best practices related to research metrics.