**Supports for Interdisciplinary Collaboration – Information and Ideas Shared by Group Participants**

1. The PAIR team focused on neuroscience (led by HSOP) noted that they are growing support for interdisciplinary research by inviting faculty with relevant interests/expertise to join their team. They see their PAIR as one that will continue to grow team science, and attract new faculty, across the years.
2. Engineering has faculty come together to provide 5 minute presentations of their research with brief discussion and then time for informal interaction. This has been useful for connecting faculty and helping them learn about each other’s research. It was suggested that such a process could be used for the PAIR teams and other research groups to increase knowledge sharing.
3. Determining additional funds, even in small amounts, that can support team research would be helpful. Such funds would permit travel to key meetings, connecting with collaborators, and other important activities associated with interdisciplinary work. The Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology (College of Education) noted such support (provided by the department) has been helpful for their faculty.
4. It was suggested that providing small grants to foster team building (and mentoring) among senior and junior faculty is another way to foster supports for interdisciplinary research team growth.
5. The Alabama Agricultural Experimental Station that supports research across 5 colleges/schools noted that it has identified key theme areas that offer opportunities for interdisciplinary research and promise for attracting external funding. Each of the areas has a team leader that facilitates activities.
6. The value of both formally structured groups and informally supported groups for bringing together researchers for ongoing sharing of ideas and developing collaborations was discussed.
7. The importance of interdisciplinary research groups developing a “Guiding Document” was noted as a critical means for sustaining focus and increasing desired outcomes for the group.
8. Need for increasing Auburn’s physical spaces for collaboration was emphasized.
9. While we are investing in PAIR teams and Research Clusters (which is a good thing), we also need to ensure that other research teams are encouraged and supported. For some of these groups, small research grants (that are not lengthy to apply for) and places to meet would be meaningful supports.
10. Doing more to attract and retain strong graduate students, who are essential to attracting and retaining the strong faculty engaged in interdisciplinary research, was discussed. Ways to get these students to apply and then commit to doing their doctoral work at Auburn will require resources that draw them to Auburn initially followed by supports that retain them at Auburn.