Promote Innovation and Shape the Future of Science

- Reorganize the Biological Sciences and Statistics
- Create a master space plan
- Provide seed funding for emerging initiatives
- Support visiting faculty programs
- Invest in core facilities
- Evaluate Organized Research Units (ORUs)
- Assess and improve administrative processes

WHAT WE’VE DONE

**Biology Reorganization**
As of Fall 2013, the College is now home to three new departments of Neuroscience, Molecular Biosciences, and Integrative Biology. Together with the Biology Instruction Office that oversees introductory biology courses and labs, these departments now represent the modern reorganization of the former School of Biological Sciences.

**Statistics**
The proposed Department of Statistics & Data Sciences is pending approval of UT System and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, with a projected implementation date of Fall 2014. This new status will allow the existing Division of Statistics & Scientific Computation to expand its educational and research impact.
**Master Space Plan**
A master space plan with priorities, timelines, and specific occupancy plans for renovation and modernization of our teaching and research facilities is now complete. The plan will be previewed at the College’s Town Hall on October 4th. Some recommendations are already underway, including the relocation of Statistics and CCBB into Gates, and the reorganization of Biological Sciences in NHB and Patterson.

**Seed Funding**
CNS has designed a competitive mechanism to provide seed funding for interdisciplinary research at the interface of existing and emerging fields. For this first year, CNS has budgeted $75K for a single award, and an RFP will be distributed in early Fall 2013. The Office of Strategic Initiatives will also accept faculty requests for matching funds or cost-sharing to enhance the competitiveness of grant proposals.

**Biodiversity**
A planning committee is actively engaged in discussions on how to develop a well-funded, internationally recognized Biodiversity Center on campus. The planning committee, chaired by Dr. Mike Ryan, will consider both the administrative and budgetary structure of the new Center and propose benchmarks for moving forward.

**Instructional Allocations**
Departments are now managing their own instructional budgets and prioritizing how funds will be used to support courses and innovation in the classroom, including the incorporation of undergraduate teaching assistants. Projections for 2014-15 will be collected in October, allowing CNS to more effectively anticipate and plan for instructional budget costs in the upcoming year.
**Faculty Workload**

A College-wide faculty committee is working with the Office of Faculty Affairs to review teaching load expectations in the College. Their goal is to establish benchmarks for teaching loads and to clarify how research activity and administrative/service roles translate into course reduction. Each department is participating by submitting its faculty workload guidelines.