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

Statistics is Official
Effective August 2014, the Division of Statistics and Scientific Computation (SSC) will be officially renamed the Department of Statistics and Data Sciences. A department chair will be appointed soon. This new status will allow the department to further advance data-enabled education and research across the UT campus while continuing its strong service mission.

Master Space Plan Update
A master space plan with priorities, timelines and specific plans for renovation and modernization of our teaching and research facilities was presented at the CNS Town Hall on October 4th. Design and development has begun on several projects in Phase 1, including renovations in Welch Hall and W.C. Hogg.

Investing in Core Facilities
The College has created a budget for matching support for instrumentation grants and currently has several matching commitments for proposals that are undergoing review at various federal agencies.
Center for Infectious Disease
The Center for Infectious Disease was established as a new organized research unit in CNS this Fall. Professor Marvin Whiteley has been named as its inaugural director. The mission of the Center is to facilitate basic and translational research into the molecular mechanisms of pathogenesis of bacterial, viral, parasitic or fungal infections, and to develop strategies for prevention and therapy.

Business Affairs Collaboration
Assistant Dean for Business Affairs, Ricardo Medina, has begun regular meetings with all departmental Executive Assistants to help facilitate communication and transactions with the Dean’s office. One goal of these meetings is to ensure EAs are aware of administrative changes and deadlines, and to improve efficiency for all.

Seed Funding Update
The RFP for the College’s new competitive seed funding grant for interdisciplinary research was released in Fall 2013. This grant promotes research at the interface of existing and emerging fields. A single $75,000 award will be announced in March 2014.

Instructional Management
Efforts continue to promote efficient and fair distribution of instructional resources to all units of the college. This Fall, the College worked with each department to formalize tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty teaching workloads. The Course & Curriculum committee is also working on curricular policies and requirements to help manage student access to CNS courses.