

Syracuse University Senate Committee on Research

Report of March 2017

I. Original Committee Charge

“The Committee on Research shall be responsible for stimulating, assisting and coordinating the various University groups interested in research. It shall also observe and report on research activities with respect to the maintenance of principles of academic freedom and open disclosure of research findings. It shall recommend policy regarding research leaves. It shall strive to promote a proper balance between research and teaching.”

Source: BYLAWS OF THE SENATE OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, Article V. Standing Committees, Section 14, as amended during the 2006-2007 session of the University Senate

II. 2016-17 Charge

In Fall 2016, our Committee decided to address the issue of research centers and institutes across campus. We initially planned to take on two tasks: **(1)** to identify and describe the active institutes and centers across our campus and **(2)** to get a sense of what was working well, or not working well, across centers and institutes on campus.

We began by trying to create a complete list of SU centers and institutes, through a review of all college and school websites and by reaching out to dean’s offices. We soon realized that the task of identifying centers and institutes on campus was larger than we anticipated and that we did not have time to both identify *and survey* centers and institutes. Thus, we opted to create this interim report on the overall landscape of centers and institutes, with the possibility of revisiting the center/institute survey next year.

III. Interim Findings

Here is a snapshot of centers and institutes at SU, broken down by college or school.

Architecture	0 Centers
A&S (<i>incl. Maxwell</i>)	19 Centers
Education	3 Centers
ECS	7 Centers
Falk School	1 Center
I-School	6 centers
Law	1 Center
Newhouse	7 Centers
VPA	0 Centers
Whitman	13 Centers
Joint/Unaffiliated	9 Centers
Total	66 Centers and Institutes

45 institutes or centers at SU (68%) list research as their primary mission.
 20 institutes or centers at SU (30%) provide links to publications.

The end of this report includes a list of all active centers and institutions on campus we were able to identify.

Our attempts to identify active centers and institutes on campus produce the following findings:

- **We could find no established definition of a research center or institute at SU.** Although the label “center” is more common across campus, “institute” seems more common in some schools/colleges, such as Maxwell, Arts and Sciences, and Falk. There are also instances of centers *within institutes*, as is the case for the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs. Also, some entities that seem like centers or institutes are called labs or clinics.
- **Centers and institutes are funded in different ways across campus.** Some are externally funded. Some are funded by donors, and others are supported by schools and colleges themselves. We collected information on center/institute funding sources – from conversations with college/school dean’s offices in some cases and from websites in others – but were unable to verify this information. Thus, funding sources are not included in this interim report.
- **Center/institute orientation and organizational structure vary greatly.** Some focus primarily, if not exclusively, on dynamics within campus. Others focus almost exclusively on affairs beyond campus. Some centers are quite large. Others are relatively small.
- **There is no canonical list of SU centers and institutes (see Appendix 1).** In addition to the official University lists, each college has lists or embedded links to various centers. Because of the lack of consistency across colleges/schools, we may not have found all research centers on campus.
- **The landscape of centers and institutes is very diverse.** Some schools and colleges are associated with or have many centers and institutes. Others have few to none. Some centers and institutes appear to be unaffiliated with schools or colleges at all.
- **Most, but not all, centers and institutes have a primary or secondary mission of research.** Center and institute missions seem to vary from school to school. Centers and institutes in Newhouse and the College of Law, for example, tend to focus primarily on teaching, while centers and institutes in the I-School are exclusively focused on research. In other schools and colleges, the missions of centers and institutes are more mixed.
- **There is no consistency in the public presence of centers and institutes.** Not all center/institute websites are up to date. Websites for centers that no longer exist can still be found (e.g., *Institute for Sensory Research*).

IV. Recommendations

Based on these findings, we make the following recommendations:

- (1) We ask senators to assess the accuracy of both our identification of active centers and institutes on campus and our classification of their primary and secondary missions.
- (2) A standardization of some sort, especially vis-à-vis the definition and classification of centers and institutes, would be helpful. We include in this report all centers and institutes we could identify, even though some of them do not include research as their primary mission.
- (3) For the centers and institutes whose primary mission is research, it would be useful to have a clear sense of how research productivity is measured. Peer-reviewed publications? External funding? Other measures?
- (4) We ask that this report be shared with the new Vice-President for Research, when hired, as an introduction to the research center/institute landscape at SU.

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Appendix 1: Full list of SU centers and institutes

In our investigation of active centers and institutes, we found the following discrepancies:

- There are 2 “official” web pages that purport to list the University’s Centers and Institutes, and these are non-congruent. The main university listing lists 35 centers and institutes:¹
 - Aging Studies Institute
 - The Ballentine Investment Institute
 - Behavior, Information, Technology and Society (*BITS*) Lab
 - George E. Bennet Center for Accounting and Tax Research
 - Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture
 - The Syracuse Biomaterials Institute (*SBI*)
 - Robert H. Brethen Operations Management Institute
 - The Burton Blatt Institute (*BBI*)
 - Campbell Public Affairs Institute
 - Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering (*CASE*)
 - Center for Computational Data Sciences (*CCDS*)
 - Center for Convergence and Emerging Technologies (*CCENT*)
 - Center for Digital Literacy (*CDL*)
 - Center for Environmental Quality Systems (*EQS*)
 - Center for Environmental Systems Engineering (*CESE*)
 - Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems (*CoE*)
 - Environmental Finance Center
 - Syracuse University Humanities Center
 - Center on Human Policy (*CHP*)
 - Center for Information Systems Assurance and Trust (*CISAT*)
 - Center for Policy Research (*CPR*)
 - Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship
 - Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute (*FNSSI*)
 - The H.H. Franklin Center for Supply Chain Management
 - Institute for the Study of Judiciary Politics and the Media (*IJPM*)
 - Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (*INSCT*)
 - Institute for Sensory Research (*ISR*)
 - Olivia and Walter Kiebach Center for International Business
 - Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs
 - NY State Science and Technology Law Center
 - Harry E. Salzberg Memorial Program
 - Earl V. Snyder Innovation Management Program
 - Social Computing Systems Lab (*SALT*)
 - Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (*TRAC*)
 - The Tully Center for Free Speech

- The SU Office of Research web site lists 33 centers and institutes.ⁱⁱ It is missing the following from the list above:
 - Behavior, Information, Technology and Society (*BITS*) Lab
 - Environmental Finance Center
 - Syracuse University Humanities Center
 - Social Computing Systems Lab (*SALT*)
- In addition, the SU Office of Research web site lists 1 center that no longer seems to exist:
 - Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (*COTELCO*)

Our examination found 31 more entities that may warrant inclusion in a comprehensive list of centers. These are denoted in the table below in yellow-highlighted rows.

Summary List of Centers & Institutes by College

College	Center/Institute Name	Primary Activity	Secondary Activity
School of Architecture			
	No Research Centers		
Arts & Sciences			
(incl Maxwell School)			
	Campbell Public Affairs Institute	Teaching	Outreach
	Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion	Outreach	Research
	Center for European Studies	Research	Teaching
	Center for Policy Research (<i>CPR</i>)	Teaching	Outreach
	Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (<i>INSCI</i>)	Research	Teaching
	Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute (<i>FNSSI</i>)	Research	Teaching
	Gebbie Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic	Research	Teaching
	Institute for Sensory Research	Research	
	Institute for the Study of Judiciary, Politics and the Media (<i>IJPM</i>)	Research	Teaching
	Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs	Research	Teaching

	Moynihan: East Asian Program	Teaching	
	Moynihan: Korean Peninsula Affairs Center	Teaching	Research
	Moynihan: Middle Eastern Studies	Teaching	
	Moynihan: European Research Centers	Teaching	Outreach
	Moynihan: Program on Latin America & the Caribbean	Teaching	Research
	Moynihan: South Asia Center	Research	Teaching
	Syracuse University Humanities Center	Research	Teaching
	Community Folk Art Center	Advocacy	Outreach
	La Casita Cultural Center	Advocacy	Outreach
School of Education			
	Center on Human Policy, Law, & Disability Studies	Research	Advocacy
	Institute on Communication and Inclusion	Research	Teaching
	Taishoff Center on Inclusive Higher Education	Research	Teaching
College of Engineering			
	Center for Environmental Quality Systems (EQS)		
	Center for Environmental Systems Engineering (CESE)	Research	
	Center for Sustainable Engineering	Teaching	Advocacy
	Geofoam Research Center	Research	
	Institute for Sensory Research	Research	
	Industrial Assessment Center		
	Green Data Center		
Falk College of Sport & Human Dynamics			
	Sport for Human Development Institute	Teaching	
The I-School			

	Behavior, Information, Technology and Society (<i>BITS</i>) Lab	Research	
	Center for Computational and Data Sciences (<i>CCDS</i>)	Research	
	Center for Convergence and Emerging Network Technologies	Research	
	Center for Digital Literacy	Research	
	Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (<i>COTELCO</i>)		
	NEXIS	Research	
	Social Computing Systems Lab (<i>SALT</i>)	Research	
SU College of Law			
	New York State Science and Technology Law Center	Teaching	Outreach
Newhouse School of Public Communications			
	Blier Center for Popular Culture	Teaching	Research
	Center for Digital Media Entrepreneurship	Teaching	
	Center for Global Engagement	Teaching	
	Center for Social Commerce	Teaching	
	Center for Sports Media	Teaching	
	Tully Center for Free Speech	Advocacy	Teaching
	Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (<i>TRAC</i>)	Research	Outreach
Visual & Performing Arts			
Whitman School of Management			
	Africa Business Program	Outreach	Teaching
	Ballentine Investment Center	Teaching	
	Center for Ethics & Leadership	Teaching	

	Earl V. Snyder Innovation Management Program	Research	
	Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship	Outreach	Teaching
	George E. Bennett Center for Accounting and Tax Research	Research	Teaching
	The H.H. Franklin Center for Supply Chain Management	Research	
	James D. Kuhn Real Estate Center	Teaching	
	Harry E. Salzberg Memorial Lecture Program	Teaching	
	Robert H. Brethen Operations Management Institute	Outreach	Teaching
	Sustainable Enterprise Partnership	Teaching	Research
	Walter and Olivia Liebach Center for International Business Studies	Research	Teaching
	Institute for an Entrepreneurial Society	Research	Teaching
Joint/Unaffiliated			
	Burton Blatt Institute	Research	Advocacy
	Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering (<i>CASE</i>)	Outreach	Teaching
	Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems (<i>CoE</i>)	Research	
	Syracuse Environmental Finance Center	Advocacy	Research
	Institute for Veterans & Military Families	Research	Advocacy
	Center for Learning and Student Success (<i>CLaSS</i>)	Teaching	
	Center for Information and Systems Assurance and Trust (<i>CISAT</i>)	Research	Teaching
	Syracuse Biomaterials Institute	Research	Teaching
	Aging Studies Institute	Research	Teaching

ⁱ<https://www.syracuse.edu/academics/centers-institutes/>. Accessed 13 March 2017.

ⁱⁱ<https://research.syr.edu/centers-and-institutes/>. Accessed 13 March 2017.