

**STRATEGIC THRUST IDEAS REGARDING RESEARCH GROWTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**  
**Results of Focus Group Session – April 19, 2011**

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1. Establish a “faculty club” to promote interdisciplinary research
2. Initiate an annual celebration around research and creative scholarship that engages all stakeholders – community, students, administration, faculty, staff...
3. Form an external advisory board comprised of some private sector representation focused on taking research at UM to the next level
4. Develop and promote a “model” for technology transfer among the campus community to encourage stronger engagement
5. Establish a support function for securing SBIR/STTR funds as well as translational research funds
6. Build upon the engagement already flourishing with the business school
7. Establish a programmatic initiative aimed at engaging those faculty with limited experience in technology transfer functions
8. Consider holding regular meetings of the “think tank,” which has emerged from within the focus group sessions
9. Initiate a training program for faculty and students interested in learning more about research and technology transfer
10. Form working groups with industrial and entrepreneurial partners aimed at securing research dollars
11. Consider mechanisms for facilitating better interaction among the regional life science community, particularly the UM/St Pats Institutes
12. Develop an industry liaison program aimed at connecting the research community with the private sector in areas of strategic alignment
13. Develop focus areas for research thrusts, i.e. areas of excellence, such as neuroscience or clean technology