

SUBMITTED BY:

M. ROY WILSON, PRESIDENT

**RECOMMENDATION TO RENEW CHARTER
INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Governors renew the charter for the Institute of Gerontology (IOG) through December 2024, as recommended by the Center and Institute Advisory Committee-II (CIAC-II). The Vice President for Research concurs with this six-year charter renewal recommendation, as does the Policy Committee of the Academic Senate.

BACKGROUND

IOG dedicates research in the social and behavioral sciences and cognitive neurosciences to issues of aging and urban health.

More specifically, IOG's mission focuses on the following four priorities:

- **RESEARCH:** Improving our community's health through research
- **EDUCATION:** Preparing tomorrow's leaders in aging research
- **OUTREACH and ENGAGEMENT:** Connecting seniors and their families to current knowledge
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Building programs that will stand the test of time

IOG was formed in 1965, with its last charter review in 2012, when it was re-chartered for 6 years. Peter Lichtenberg, Ph.D. has been the director since 1999.

REVIEW

In accordance with the Board of Governors Wayne State University Statute 2.23.01 *Centers and Institutes: Policy on Creation, Operation, Review, and Discontinuance*, MPSI underwent a formal review by the Center and Institute Advisory Committee-II (CIAC-II) in fall of 2018.

The CIAC-II subcommittee followed the guidelines provided by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) to assess the evidence and value of the IOG as a freestanding unit at WSU. The review process involved examining a) the IOG self-study documents; b) CIAC-II report from 2012 CIAC-II review; c) OVPR guidelines for center reviews; d). IOG 2016-2017 annual report "Engage: "; e). IOG trainee accomplishment summaries of Gail Jensen Summer's formal trainees; f). additional requested financial details; g). updated organizational chart; and f). a site visit at

which CIAC-II subcommittee members met with the director, leadership team, senior faculty, junior faculty, outreach and communications team, development team, current WSU external collaborators, current trainees and one former trainee, and advisory board members.

The subcommittee report recommending that the charter for this Institute be renewed for a period of six years was submitted to and approved by the full CIAC-II committee. The full committee submitted a final report to the Vice President for Research and to the Policy Committee of the Academic Senate. The Policy Committee of the Academic Senate received the report and prepared a recommendation for a six-year renewal also.

MPSI STRENGTHS INDICATED BY CIAC-II

IOG continues to provide outstanding value to the university faculty, students, and the greater Detroit community. Under Dr. Peter Lichtenberg's exemplary leadership, the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR, an NIA P30 grant) was renewed and a >\$1.1 million endowment was established with the enthusiastic support of over 50 partners. Faculty grant support grew significantly, and positions opened up by departing/retiring faculty were all filled by outstanding young investigators.

- IOG adds value to WSU faculty, students, the surrounding community, and beyond across all components of its mission (research, education, outreach and engagement, and lasting partnerships). IOG faculty members and adjunct faculty benefit from engagement with the IOG in multiple ways. The IOG fosters research collaborations across disciplines, provides mentorship for career development, provides outstanding grant submission support, and is a nationally-recognized home for gerontology research. The institute also supports laboratory and other research infrastructures.
- IOG provides student training through the IOG Pre-Doctoral Training Program, which focuses on aging and health in collaboration with psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, health services research, and allied health. There are currently 20 trainees in the program who have received multiple awards, published 36 publications (17 as first author) and received four research grants. Graduates of the program have entered impactful positions in academia and the private sector, and some of these positions include the Department Chair of Social Sciences and Humanities at Davenport University, a tenure track assistant professor at Yale University, a post-doctoral position at Brown University, partner at Policy Analysis Inc., and Director of Risk Analytics for Fannie Mae.
- Faculty and students are involved with IOG's extensive community outreach, which is outlined in the CIAC-II report. The Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) has been continuously funded by NIA for over 22 years, and was just renewed during the review period. The center's community outreach through the Healthy Black Elders program facilitates interactions between community members and health experts. Research is promoted through the Participant Research Pool, and

designated faculty scholars receive training, funding and mentoring.

- IOG collaborates with other regional universities. The Alzheimer's Disease Core Center (ADCC) is a center dedicated to enhancing the understanding and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias funded by a five-year NIH grant. The center spans the entire state and is a collaboration between WSU, University of Michigan and Michigan State University.
- The administrative organization under Dr. Peter Lichtenberg's leadership was frequently cited as valuable to faculty and students. This organization provides crucial grant submission support, research support, and community outreach infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY CIAC-II FOR NEXT CHARTER PERIOD

- IOG should continue to pursue a T32 training grant. This will require additional R01 level funding of IOG faculty.
- A plan for the succession of leadership should be crafted. Given that Dr. Lichtenberg is so integral to the IOG, it will take time to develop future leaders capable of carrying on the IOG leadership with the quality, professional reputation, and experience that he currently provides. We suggest involving the EAB in this process.
- IOG should develop and implement an updated strategic plan, as the most recent strategic plan goes only through 2018 with the involvement of the advisory boards.
- In keeping with the WSU mission, we recommend promoting and highlighting diversity in students, trainees, and faculty. In planning for a T32 submission, the IOG's goals for diversity and how well are they met should be described.