Over the summer, the President’s Cabinet met to discuss our response to the budget cuts and to formulate a strategy as to how to move forward without compromising the high quality of our research, teaching and engagement at UNH. You will hear more about our plans as the semester unfolds.

Many groups and agencies are having similar discussions focused on core missions and effectiveness. A couple months ago, I attended the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development Visioning Session and co-chaired the Interdisciplinary Research and Training sub-group with a brilliant young scientist from Scripps Institute. Many of the discussions we are having about our responsibility as a land-grant university are not that different from a federal agency asking the question: How can we be more effective in advancing research that makes a difference in people’s lives?

I hope you all had some time off. I spent quite a few days swimming in Muscongus Bay in Maine, contemplating this past year and thinking about FY 12. Occasionally I was joined by the local loon or a curious seal, but mostly the osprey squawked overhead preferring that I leave their territory. I eventually did.

Here is to a great year!

Jan Nisbet
Office Profile: Environmental Health & Safety

The protection of human health and compliance with applicable regulations are essential conditions for research, instruction, public service at UNH. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) provides leadership, resources, and services to assure safe and healthful environments for all segments of the campus population and compliance across the University community.

OEHS is responsible for programs to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal health, safety, and environmental regulations, and campus policies on environmental health and safety. OEHS also oversees the management of hazardous materials, environmental programs, and injury and illness prevention.

The various programs and services OEHS offers to the UNH community cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Biological Safety and Security
- Chemical Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Fire Protection
- General Safety
- Hazardous Materials Shipping Guidance
- Hazardous Waste Management
- Industrial Hygiene
- Occupational Health
- Radiation Safety
- Refrigerant Management

Find more about OEHS at: www.unh.edu/research/oehs.

New Hampshire EPSCoR

New Hampshire became a National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR state in 2004. The purpose of the NH EPSCoR program is to increase the capacities of NH’s universities and 2- and 4-year colleges to compete successfully for research and development funds, and to stimulate complementary efforts in education and human resource development to ensure growth and support of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research and training.

In New Hampshire, the NSF EPSCoR program is administered by UNH. Jan Nisbet serves as State Director, Kevin Gardner is the Associate State Director and Michelle Gregoire is the Program Manager. A 16-member Statewide Committee composed of representatives from industry, academia and government governs the program.

In 2007, NH received its first Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) award from NSF. This project, funded for four years at $7.8 million, enabled the development of testing facilities and acquisition of instruments to advance research in small space satellites, measuring the forces of wind, and thin films for use in energy and manufacturing. Discovery of a new organic light-emitting material by UNH’s Glen Miller could lead to low-energy solutions for lighting.

Outreach and education activities included Tech Camp’s new “Engineeristas” week-long program for middle-school girls. EPSCoR projects have employed 8 post-docs or young research scientists, 31 grad students, and 27 undergrads; sponsored 75 science camp scholarships; and sent 17 college students to national science meetings to present a poster or give a talk on their research project.

NH’s second RII award (anticipated in FY 2012) will provide $20 million to support a 5-year statewide research and education project studying the impact of climate change on NH’s environment.

Ecosystems in NH and the surrounding northern forest region provide a wide range of services that are critical to the region’s inhabitants. Together, forests and their adjacent aquatic ecosystems provide clean water, biomass for timber and energy production, carbon storage, climate and nutrient regulation, and opportunities for recreation and aesthetic renewal. Critical data will be collected by citizen scientists and K-14 students, who will be trained through teacher workshops, science camps, citizen workshops, and after-school programs. The new collaborations across academic institutions, business, government, and not-for-profit institutions fostered by this project will strengthen networks required to engage in future collaborations to address key societal issues across the state.

Becoming an NSF EPSCoR state has opened doors to funding from similar programs at other federal agencies. NH has received awards from the EPSCoR programs of the Dept. of Defense, the Dept. of Energy and NASA, and awards from the IDeA program of the National Institutes of Health. In just seven years, nearly $84 million in federal grants has been awarded to build research capacity statewide.
In April, Amanda Pimentel (UNH Class of 2004) filled the recently created position of Subrecipient Agreement Coordinator in SPA. Amanda came to UNH from the law firm of Campbell Campbell Edwards and Conroy, Boston, MA, where she specialized in product liability defense.

Two long-time members of SPA will be retiring as of September 2nd. Patricia Hansen will retire from UNH after more than 24 years of service. Before coming to work in SPA, Pat held positions as a Business Services Assistant at Facilities and at Campus Planning.

Kathryn Wainwright will retire after more than 29 years of service to the University. Kathy has held positions of increasing responsibility in sponsored programs financial management. She advanced to an assistant director in the financial management group. Kathy’s advice is often sought on payroll and labor cost accounting issues in sponsored programs. She has provided supervision for the effort certification systems.

A farewell reception for Pat and Kathy will be held from 3:00 - 4:30 PM on August 31st in Room 125 of the Service Building.

Marc Sedam, Executive Director of the ORPC, recently earned the Certified Licensing Professional™ (CLP) credential. The CLP is a certification available to practitioners who have established a combination of high-level expertise in licensing intellectual property with high-impact transactions. Marc feels that his new CLP designation will help showcase UNH’s leadership in technology licensing.

Erica Johnson, Director of the UNH InterOperability Laboratory (IOL) has been named to FierceTelecom’s second annual Women in Wireline list.

According to the editors, the list celebrates the diversity of and recognizes important women figures in the wireline segment of the telecom industry. Selection of 2011’s “industry’s movers and shakers was based on the nominees' ability to develop innovative new wireline services, drive technology innovation, and conduct complex company integration exercises. FierceTelecom also based its selections on our interaction with members of the wireline industry segment, observations and reader input.”

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Since August 10, Dean Elder, DVM, has been Interim Director of the Animal Resources Office (ARO). Dean has worked in the ARO since 2005 in various positions, including Associate Director and Interim Director. Dean assumed the Interim Director position from Richard French, Director of the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The change was a result of an administrative decision in COLSA. Work has started to fill the Director position permanently, including an assessment of the needs of the office. An announcement about the position will be forthcoming shortly.

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