

Review of the Proposal to Establish the Institute for Population Research

SubCommittee: Leslie Alexander (Chair), John Fellingham (CAA), Prem Goel (Research Committee), Karen Hutzel (Research Committee), and Rajiv Ramnath (Research Committee)

This proposal seeks to transform the currently existing Initiative for Population Research into an Institute for Population Research. The Institute would be equivalent to a University Center, but they prefer the term Institute, which would allow them to retain the use of the acronym IPR which has become known around campus.

Background: The Initiative was first developed in 2001, and has been functioning successfully for over a decade. It is currently funded both by the University and by a sizable grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH). IPR's stated goal is to "build a multi-disciplinary population and health research center of excellence." Affiliates conduct research in three broad areas: family demography, health and health disparities, and population distribution.

Initially, IPR gained strength through a TIE (Targeted Investment in Excellence), which allowed for targeted faculty hires in key research areas. And in 2008, IPR was successful in obtaining a grant from NIH.

IPR's major activities include a seed grant program, a seminar series, workshops, and travel support. There are currently 61 faculty affiliates representing 7 colleges and 17 departments.

The Review Process: The review committee met twice in person and also consulted via email. We generated a series of questions that were presented to John Casterline (the IPR Director) and he provided responses in a timely fashion. You have been given a list of our original questions and the responses from Dr. Casterline. As you probably noticed, our primary questions centered on the issue of the budget, and concerns among the committee members about whether the IPR would be able to sustain itself if the NIH grant was not renewed. Committee members were also interested to see specific and tangible examples of how the IPR had successfully enriched research productivity and the ability of affiliated faculty to obtain additional grants to support their research. There were also secondary questions regarding the proposed reporting structure for the Institute and about their efforts to include faculty from across the campus in their programming.

Although the committee remained a bit uneasy about the fate of the Institute if they lost NIH funding, we were convinced overall that this is a very strong intellectual program that is a strong asset to OSU. During our final meeting we generated a few more questions that we shared with Dr. Casterline in advance, and that we'd like to touch upon in the Q&A section, but we agreed unanimously to endorse the Institute and we move approval of the proposal.




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23 April 2012

TO: Professor Leslie Alexander
Council on Academic Affairs

FROM: John B. Casterline 

SUBJECT: Proposal to establish Institute for Population Research:
Response to your April 10 memo

This memo provides our response to the nine questions posed in the memo you forwarded to me on April 10. I am gratified that CAA is giving our proposal thorough consideration, and I am happy to have the opportunity to respond to each of your questions.

In answering the nine questions, I have found that portions of some responses apply to more than one question. Rather than repeating the same response in multiple locations, you will see that I cross-reference.

1. Can you explicitly document some of the achievements that the Initiative in Population Research has reached over the past 10 years?

We can point to a range of achievements, specifically: (a) an increase in the number of faculty affiliates, accompanied by disciplinary diversification; (b) an increase in the number of research awards of faculty affiliates; (c) receipt of highly-competitive NIH center grants; (d) investments from Population & Health TIE; (e) improved administrative services to faculty affiliates.

a. *Increase in the number of faculty affiliates, and disciplinary diversification*

This table provides a snapshot portrait of the growth in the number of faculty affiliates and the number of departments represented, from early in IPR's history to the present:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Faculty</u>	<u>Number Departments</u>	<u>Number Colleges</u>
2003	46	12	5
2008	51	14	6
2012	61	17	7

note: ASC counted as one college in all years

Moreover, the dominance of one department – Sociology (from which IPR originated in 2001) – has steadily receded over time. The counts are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Faculty</u>	<u>Number Sociology</u>
2003	46	24
2008	51	19
2012	61	17

b. *Increase in the number of external research awards.*

There has also been an increase in the nominal value of external awards obtained by IPR affiliates. (These are per annum direct costs of active awards. Note that a standard metric is difficult to construct: there are varying award periods, varying rates of F&A, etc.)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Per annum Dollar value</u>
2003	\$1.6 million
2008	\$2.0 million
2011	\$2.5 million

c. *Receipt of highly-competitive NIH center grants*

For more than four decades, the National Institute of Child Health and Development [NICHD] has provided core support (“center grant”) to population research centers. These are five-year awards, with competitive renewal. The number of such awards has grown from less than ten to about twenty at the present time. Receipt of such an award is widely regarded as an indication of national standing as a population research center. In recent years, about one-half of applications have been successful in each annual review round. The Initiative in Population Research was established in 2001 with the explicit goal of competing successfully for an NIH center grant. First success came in 2004 in the form of an R21 grant, a small (\$150K direct per annum) non-renewable five-year award intended to position IPR to compete for a renewable R24 grant. The R24 grant was secured in 2009, when IPR’s application was scored better than several more established centers at other universities. This success provides external confirmation that IPR has matured into a premier population research center.

d. *Investments from the Population and Health Targeted Investment in Excellence [TIE]*

The Population & Health TIE was not an initiative of IPR *per se*. But IPR has made good use of resources provided by this TIE. Faculty hires have enlarged the pool of behavioral scientists at Ohio State who have programs of research in population and health (broadly defined); this in part accounts for the growth in the number and disciplinary diversity of the faculty in the table above. And TIE funds, supplemented by SBS funds, allowed for IPR to move to renovated space in Townshend Hall that accommodates a larger research community (faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students) and is far more functional for our purposes.

e. *Improved administrative services to faculty affiliates*

At its inception, IPR had one full-time administrative staff member whose time was (and still is) mainly occupied by rather routine administrative matters (purchasing, travel,

communication with affiliates, etc.). To meet our overarching goal of fostering population research at Ohio State, and recognizing that some behavioral science departments offer limited grant support (especially pre-award), in 2008 we added a full-time grants manager to the IPR staff. This has proven to be a successful staff expansion, as faculty affiliates have increasingly relied on this staff member for assistance in identifying funding opportunities and assistance in the grant submission process. The IPR grants manager has also launched a grant-writing training program. The achievement here is to establish IPR as a highly-valued source of assistance of various kinds for research-active faculty, which in turn facilitates a higher volume of applications.

2. What impact has the Initiative had on campus? Specifically, what has the Initiative accomplished with the investment that the university has made in the program? Has the Initiative helped attract new multi-investigator grants?

IPR's impact on campus can be classified into four categories: (a) a program of activities that brings together faculty from multiple colleges and departments; (b) a seed grant program that has nurtured new research projects and made them competitive for external funding; (c) multi-disciplinary multi-investigator projects; (d) improved staff services to facilitate faculty research.

a. *Program of activities that brings together faculty from multiple colleges and departments*

IPR conducts two activities that have the effect of bringing together faculty from around campus. The first is the weekly IPR seminar, which features both Ohio State researchers and scholars from other universities. Attendance averages about 35 persons per seminar, and draws from multiple colleges and departments (this can be documented). The second activity is didactic workshops, offered twice per annum and typically two days in duration. Participation in these averages 25-30 persons and also draws from multiple colleges and departments. Both activities have the effect of creating interaction among faculty from different disciplines who would be far less likely to cross paths otherwise.

b. *Seed grant program that has nurtured new research projects.*

IPR launched a seed grant program upon receipt of the R21 award from NIH in 2004. To date, IPR has made 52 seed grant awards with total expenditure of \$1,239,259. The return on this investment has been impressive: we can link 16 external awards with total budget of \$4,473,248 (direct costs) to IPR seed grants. Of course we do not have a counter-factual for comparison – we will not claim that none of the successful applications for external awards would have occurred otherwise. But it is plausible that IPR's seed grants have made a substantial difference.

c. *Multi-disciplinary multi-investigator projects*

IPR has nurtured a number of such projects. Several of the more notable are:

	<u>Investigators</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>Past</u>	Qian (Sociology) Kamp-Dush (HDFS) Lu (Biostatistics) Olsen (Economics) Williams (Sociology)	“Union experiences and midlife health outcomes”
	Cooksey (Sociology) Donnermeyer (Rural Soc)	“Stability and change of Amish populations in the 21st century”
	Gavazzi (HDFS) Cooksey (Sociology) Haring (HDFS)	“Ecological understanding of adolescent arrest”
<u>Active</u>	[NIH] Salsberry (Nursing) Reagan (Economics) Cooksey (Sociology)	“Pathways to overweight and pubertal timing in African-American and White girls”
	[NIH] Browning (Sociology) Calder (Statistics) Ford (Nursing)	“Adolescent health and development in context”
<u>Under Development</u>	Steckl (Economics) Larsen (Anthropology) Merry (Engineering) Thompson (Geography)	“Health and aging under diverse conditions”
	Schmeer (Sociology) Piperata (Anthropology)	“Household dynamics, food availability, and maternal/child nutrition in Leon, Nicaragua
	Norris (Public Health) Casterline (Sociology) Kwiek (Medicine)	“Choices and constraints in reproductive health decision making among Malawian women”

d. *Improved staff services to facilitate faculty research*

See response 1.e. above.

3. Can you clarify what will happen if the current infrastructure grant is not renewed? It appears that you have total costs of approximately \$2.2 million per year, and the effect of losing the grant would reduce your budget to \$180,000. How would you cope this with scenario? Please be specific. Would support for the program continue? Please comment on the Initiative’s ability to sustain

itself as an Institute in the absence of the major grant? Are there other possible sources of funding?

Our proposal has inadvertently created some confusion about IPR's year-to-year finances. Our total expense per annum at present is roughly \$750,000, not \$2.2 million. (See Table 2 on page 9 of the proposal – corrected version below, see Question #9.) Without the NIH award, our secure annual revenue would be roughly \$200,000 (these would be OSU funds, including return on indirects). This would support:

- two A&P staff positions, including the grants manager @ \$150K
- seminar and workshop program @ \$25K
- operating expenses and other miscellaneous expenses @ \$25K

The major loss would be the seed grant program. A proposed A&P staff position would not be created (reducing A&P staff costs from \$225K to \$150K), and there would be no graduate student assistant. IPR would not provide travel support to professional conferences to faculty affiliates (currently about \$30K per annum).

Without a doubt IPR would be a lesser institution. But we would retain two of three key functions that enable us to foster multi-disciplinary population research at Ohio State, namely seminars/workshops and the grants manager. The fundamental rationale for IPR as a multidisciplinary research center at Ohio State would remain.

Of course we have every intention of retaining the NIH award. (See response to Question #5 below.) We would also pursue alternative sources of core funding, which in any case is our intention without or with renewal of the NIH award.

4. What impact has the Initiative had on the research environment on campus? Has the infrastructure grant helped faculty obtain grants for their personal research? How has the Initiative helped the affiliated faculty members to attract new funding that would not have been possible otherwise? On page 10 of the proposal, you seem to suggest that \$2.5 million in grants were obtained—were these grants obtained through IPR? Were they individual grants or ones that involve multi-disciplinary faculty from IPR?

Our response to Question #2 (above) answers most of the questions posed here. In our response to #2, we describe IPR's program of activities that brings faculty together from around campus and thereby nurtures multi-disciplinary research (response 2.a). We also note that IPR's seed grant program (response 2.b) and the addition of the grants manager to our staff (response 1.e) have facilitated faculty efforts to obtain external awards. We also report on the number of external awards (and their dollar value) that can be attributed, at least in part, to IPR seed grant funding (response 2.b). Finally, we list some multi-disciplinary projects (response 2.c).

On the matter of the annual magnitude of external funding to IPR faculty affiliates (roughly \$2.5 million in recent years), some of these awards benefited from pre-award assistance from IPR staff,

others did not. We do not have a precise breakdown. None of these awards are administered by IPR; departments prefer to retain the bulk of indirect costs, and therefore prefer to administer awards, and we have deferred to this preference. IPR’s goal is to facilitate successful development of research projects through all the activities noted above, including pre-award administrative assistance, and from this perspective post-award administration is a rather incidental matter. Note that many behavioral science projects are relatively straightforward to administer because they entail secondary analysis of existing data.

5. How many similar centers exist across the country? Are these regional or national centers? How would this Institute compare? What are the success rates of similar centers over time in infrastructure grant renewal? The Divisional Dean’s letter makes passing comment about this issue, but we would like to see it appear in the proposal.

There are eighteen university population research centers that receive R24 awards from NICHD, as follows:

Bowling Green	Maryland	Princeton
Brown	Michigan	SUNY-Albany
California-Berkeley	North Carolina	Texas-Austin
Chicago	Ohio State	UCLA
Colorado	Pennsylvania	Washington (Seattle)
Duke	Penn State	Wisconsin

(There are a few further awards to non-university centers, such as RAND.)

None of these centers presents itself as “regional”, rather all perceive themselves (and conduct themselves) as having national (and international) standing. Each center has distinctive features, but there is considerable resemblance among them. In structure and scientific mission, IPR at Ohio State is by no means eccentric. Annual direct costs under the R24 awards to these centers range between \$300K - \$500K; that is, IPR’s award is among the smaller ones, which reduces the likelihood of receiving a budget cut at the time of renewal (a common phenomenon for the centers with larger past awards).

Renewal success rates are not easily retrieved. As someone who has observed this process for several decades, I can report that renewal rates have been very high, indeed failure to renew has been rare in the past (10% or less). But of course we are not complacent about this.

6. Can you describe how the Initiative functions on a day-to-day basis? What about the intellectual life of the Initiative? What would the Institute provide that affiliated faculty would not get otherwise?

Day-to-day, IPR has a resident community of roughly twenty-five persons: the Director, five faculty, two post-doctoral fellows, three permanent staff, one graduate student assistant, one

undergraduate student assistant, and twelve other graduate students. Typically about fifteen persons are in IPR at any given moment during the work-week. Faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students are usually engaged in research and other academic work, while staff and the student assistants are usually engaged in the various tasks that keep IPR running (e.g. assisting with grant submissions, arranging travel and schedules for visiting speakers, maintaining IPR's website and database).

Central to the intellectual life of IPR are the weekly seminars, with attendance averaging 35 persons. We offer lunch, and therefore many persons appear 10-15 minutes in advance or linger 10-15 minutes afterward. Interaction at the weekly seminar is perhaps the single most important facet of IPR's intellectual life. The audience is always multi-department, and the speakers too are deliberately drawn from multiple disciplines. For example, during the past two academic years the disciplinary homes of IPR seminar speakers have included anthropology, agricultural economics, biostatistics, demography, economics, epidemiology, human development, geography, history, sociology, and statistics.

There are additional opportunities for interaction among IPR affiliates, including dinners and other meetings with visiting speakers, the semi-annual didactic workshops, the annual Huber Lecture, the quarterly junior faculty lunch hosted by IPR, and the grant-writing workshops organized by the IPR grants manager.

Almost certainly Ohio State faculty who are behavioral or biomedical scientists with interests in population and health would not have the same rich and frequent opportunities to interact with scholars from other disciplines were it not for IPR's program of activities. This in turn facilitates the establishment of multi-disciplinary collaborations that increasingly are expected by major funding agencies (NIH, NSF).

7. We noted that there are 61 affiliated faculty members, but 17 of them are housed in Sociology. Can you discuss the interdisciplinary nature of this Initiative a bit more?

It is true that Sociology is the home department for the largest single contingent of IPR faculty. This is explained in part by history: the core faculty at the time of IPR's establishment in 2001 (including the Director) held appointments in Sociology. The dominance of Sociology was greater in the past (see response 1.a). At the time of the NIH R21 submission in 2003, 24 out of 46 faculty affiliates listed were in Sociology, as against 17 out of 61 affiliates at present. The 61 current faculty affiliates are drawn from seven colleges and seventeen departments.

And while Sociology is the home department for a relatively large number of IPR faculty, there are other departments with multiple IPR affiliates (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 of proposal), in particular: Anthropology (5), Economics (8), Geography (5), Human Development and Family Science (5), Public Health (9).

8. Can you describe how the reporting structure would function if this became an Institute? Would this be University Center or a College Center? If you intend for this to be a University Institute, would the Director continue to report to the SBS Dean or to the VP for Research?

We are proposing that the Institute for Population Research be established as a University Center, because our mission is almost exclusively research and because of our multi-disciplinary breadth (see response 1.a and response 7).

We are also proposing that the Director of the Institute for Population Research report to the Dean of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences [SBS] in the College of Arts & Sciences [ASC], who in turn reports to the Executive Dean of ASC. Professor Gifford Weary is currently the Dean of SBS. This will maintain a reporting structure that has proven efficient and successful.

We see no fundamental contradiction in this arrangement, which has functioned well as IPR has grown and prospered. And this arrangement is anticipated in the OSU Center Guidelines (3335-3-36 “Centers and institutes”), as indicated by these two excerpts:

University Centers

These centers typically will have a substantial research/scholarship component to their mission, but also may be involved in instruction, and/or related service. Their internal funding (initial and continuing) is drawn fully, or in large part, from central university funds (i.e., Office of the President, Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Research, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences). The leadership of the center will report to one or more of those offices.

III. Administration: Describe the administrative structure and responsibilities of the director and oversight committee. In particular, describe or explain the following.

D. The reporting line—the dean, group of deans, or vice president to whom the center will report.

Note that OSU’s financial support of IPR is drawn from central university funds (College of the Arts and Sciences).

9. Regarding the budget, we have a minor question about the chart on page 9. There seems to be a discrepancy of \$25,000 in the expenses. Any comment on this discrepancy?

Yes, this is a discrepancy -- there was an error in Table 2 in the proposal, thank you for bringing this to our attention. A corrected version is on the next page.

Table 2: IPR Budget: Revenue & Expenses FY 2013

B1) Funding Sources	
Revenue	FY13
<i>OSU General</i>	180,000
<i>OSU IDC</i>	150,000
<i>NIH R24</i>	309,000
<i>OSU Carry over</i>	175,000
<i>R24 Carry over</i>	69,000
<i>Total income</i>	883,000
B2) Recurring costs	
Expenses	FY13
<i>Personnel</i>	
Faculty	201,000
A&P Staff	223,000
GAA	28,000
Students	4,150
<i>Seminars & Workshops</i>	32,445
<i>Travel</i>	28,800
<i>Operating Exp</i>	30,000
<i>Seed Grants</i>	200,000
<i>Total Expenses</i>	747,395
FY 2013 Budget	
Revenue-Expenses	
Revenue	883,000
Expenses	747,395
Carryover	135,605



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26 January 2012

W. Randy Smith
Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs
Bricker Hall
The Ohio State University

Dear Randy,

Attached is a proposal to establish the Institute for Population Research at Ohio State. The proposed institute will be a direct outgrowth of the Initiative in Population Research, which has been an active and successful unit since 2001.

I hope the review of this proposal can be completed during the present academic year, so that IPR will be formally established as a university center as of the first term of 2012-13.

Of course I would be happy to provide further materials or answer any questions about this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Casterline".

John B. Casterline, PhD
Lazarus Professor of Population Studies
and
Director, Initiative in Population Research

Proposal to Establish
THE INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION RESEARCH
at The Ohio State University

John B. Casterline
Director, Initiative in Population Research

January 26, 2012

Slight Revisions April 30, 2012 and May 10, 2012

This is a proposal to establish the Institute for Population Research as an Ohio State University center. The Institute will be a direct out-growth of the Initiative in Population Research [IPR], an entity already in existence for a decade and a thriving research center with external funding from the National Institutes of Health. The proposed name “Institute for Population Research” retains the acronym “IPR” which is already widely known around campus.

I. IPR Mission

The Initiative in Population Research was created in 2001 with the goal of building a multidisciplinary population and health research center of excellence at The Ohio State University. IPR affiliates conduct research in three broad areas:

- family demography (adolescent transitions, marriage, childbearing, intergenerational relations)
- health and health disparities (child health and development, health disparities in children and adults, HIV/AIDS)
- population distribution (migration, immigration to the U.S., residential segregation)

The diverse research conducted within these three areas is united by a common set of analytical approaches, namely:

- life-course and intergenerational
- geographic and contextual
- biobehavioral

A decisive contributor to the development and current flourishing of IPR was the Population and Health Targeted Investment in Excellence [TIE]. Faculty hires under this TIE brought senior and junior faculty who have substantially increased the energy and vitality of population and health research at OSU. The TIE also permitted IPR to move to larger and more functional office space (see section IV.B. below). And the TIE provided concrete evidence of OSU’s commitment to population and health research, in so doing making IPR’s 2008 application to NIH for an R24 center grant far more competitive.

A. University missions most relevant to IPR

With the research focus of many IPR affiliates on health outcomes, IPR’s scientific mission fits squarely within the university-wide “Health and Wellness” Discovery Theme. Several affiliates also have ongoing research on “Food Security and Production”. IPR’s mission also aligns closely with several of the fourteen Arts & Sciences “Initiatives”, namely:

- Biological, psychological, and social pathways to health and well-being
- Decision sciences and human behavior change
- Internationalizing A&S programs
- Urban studies initiative

B. Interdisciplinary nature of IPR

The scientific mission of IPR is intrinsically interdisciplinary. Contemporary research on population and health outcomes typically blends theory and methodology from multiple disciplines. Behavioral scientists engaged in research on population and health topics often draw from multiple disciplines; ongoing research by IPR affiliates blends economics and sociology, anthropology and history, and geography and sociology, to cite three examples. It is also increasingly common to combine behavioral and biomedical science, and indeed bridging behavioral and biomedical research is one of the over-arching goals of IPR. Major funding agencies, especially NIH, place high priority on collaborations between behavioral and biomedical scientists.

In more concrete terms, the interdisciplinary nature of IPR is reflected in the disciplinary homes of its faculty affiliates (Table 1). At present active affiliates have appointments in eight colleges (counting NMS and SBS within Arts & Sciences separately) and seventeen departments. This same disciplinary diversity characterizes all of IPR's activities, ranging from seed-grant awards to attendance at IPR's weekly seminars.

C. Goals of IPR not met within existing academic units

There is no other academic unit at OSU that is a natural base for interdisciplinary population and health research. In particular, behavioral scientists who conduct research on population and health topics are served by no other academic unit that transcends disciplinary boundaries, and this explains the predominance of behavioral scientists among IPR affiliates.

IPR's program of activities is explicitly designed to serve needs that cannot be met by other academic units. This is epitomized by the five-year renewable NIH R24 grant; an infrastructure award ("center grant") intended to foster interdisciplinary population science. The R24 application submitted in 2008 stressed the interdisciplinary character of IPR, and there is no question this was an essential requirement. All facets of IPR's program of activities have the goal of nurturing collaborations across colleges and departments, including the seed-grant program (which favors proposals for interdisciplinary collaborations) and the IPR seminar series (which quite deliberately mixes scholars from many different fields over the course of the academic year).

II. Faculty

A. Criteria for membership

Following IPR's practice to date, the Institute will have no strict requirements for membership. Rather, we will regard as "affiliates" those OSU researchers who conduct research consistent with our scientific mission and who actively participate in our program of activities.

The major activities of the Institute – seed-grant program, seminar series, didactic workshops, travel support to conferences – are open to all members of the OSU community (faculty, graduate students, and staff). The scientific mission of IPR sets the boundaries: seed grant

proposals are screened to confirm that they fall within our scientific mission; seminar speakers are selected for research interests consistent with our scientific mission; didactic workshops are designed to improve capacity at OSU to conduct population science research; travel support is provided if the conference is in the general area of population and health and/or if the scientific contribution to the conference (presentation, poster) is on a population and health topic. In all four of these activities, IPR welcomes any members of the OSU community whose interests are compatible with our scientific mission.

IPR has two types of resources that are limited and therefore must be allocated strategically. First, we provide pre- and post-award administrative support. In offering this service, we give priority to researchers whose research falls within our scientific mission (and therefore is natural to include in our reports to NIH and other donors) and to researchers who have been active participants in IPR's program of activities. Second, IPR offers office space for 10-12 researchers. In assigning offices, we give priority to those OSU researchers with ongoing research projects (especially externally-funded projects) that are central to IPR's scientific mission, and we try to achieve a multi-disciplinary mix. We give special priority to clusters of researchers from different disciplines working on the same research project.

B. Listing of faculty affiliates

A list of current IPR faculty affiliates, by college and department, is shown in Table 1. Note that the 61 affiliates have appointments in eight colleges/divisions and seventeen departments. A listing with more information on each affiliate is provided in Appendix 1.

C. Faculty and student involvement, and IPR support to faculty and students

As noted above, IPR's program of activities includes a seed grant program, seminar series, didactic workshops, and pre- and post-award administrative assistance. All of these experience very active participation by OSU researchers. The seed grant program annually receives 15-20 proposals (with 5-8 receiving funding). The weekly seminar series averages about 35 in attendance and occasionally reaches 50 persons. The didactic workshops, which occur once or twice per annum, typically have 25-30 participants.

IPR support to faculty and students has four main elements.

- seed grants, averaging 8 awards per annum (and \$24,000 per award) since 2005
- travel support to conferences, averaging 15 faculty and 11 graduate students per annum
- office space provided to 10-12 faculty and 13 graduate students
- administrative support for external awards (pre- and post-award support) provided to roughly 5 OSU researchers (faculty and PhD students) per month

III. Administration

A. Director

The current director of IPR is John B. Casterline (Lazarus Professor in Population Studies, Department of Sociology). His four-year appointment is academic years 2009-10 – 2012-13.

B. Responsibilities of Director

The Director has responsibility for:

- refining and redefining IPR's scientific mission, as science evolves and new opportunities emerge, in consultation with IPR Oversight Committee, IPR Steering Committee, and IPR faculty affiliates
- maintaining effective working relationships with program staff at external organizations (NIH, NSF, other federal and state agencies, private foundations)
- representing IPR in various OSU forums, and communicating and coordinating with senior administrators at OSU (OAA, college deans, department chairs)
- setting the annual budget and overseeing expenditure
- managing IPR's program of activities (seed grants, seminars, workshops)
- supervising IPR's administrative staff (currently two full-time staff and one 0.50 Graduate Assistant)

C. Oversight Committee: function, composition

The IPR Oversight Committee is appointed by the Dean of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the College of Arts & Sciences. The Committee has representation from the Office of Research and from those colleges whose faculties are active affiliates of IPR. The Oversight Committee advises both the college and the IPR Director on:

- the strategic mission of IPR
- an annual plan of program and activities
- a plan for annual budget expenditures
- other matters that arise, e.g. external reviews

The Oversight Committee also will conduct an annual review of the performance of the center. As such, it will meet at least once per annum. Additional meetings are scheduled if matters arise that require the Committee's immediate attention.

D. Reporting line

The IPR Director will report to the Dean of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences, who in turn reports to the Executive Dean of ASC.

E. Main components of pattern of administration

The main components of IPR's pattern of administration [POA] are as follows. The formal POA will be elaborated and submitted for approval during academic year 2012-13.

Director and IPR Steering Committee

The responsibilities of the Director are detailed in section III.B. above.

IPR has a six-person Steering Committee that meets monthly and is comprised of:

- Director
- Associate Director (currently Dr. Pamela Salsberry, College of Nursing)
- Director of Methodology core
- Director of Geographic Analysis core
- Director for Graduate Student affairs
- Manager of Workshop/Lecture/Seminar program

External Advice

At least once every five years, and on other occasions as appropriate, IPR will seek advice from an external team of population and health scientists who are well acquainted both with the scientific terrain of IPR researchers and with the funding environment (especially NIH). Ordinarily this advice will be sought about fifteen months prior to submission of the application for renewal of the NIH R24 infrastructure award. The team will consist of persons who have served as directors of peer centers and/or have participated in review of NIH R24 applications.

IV. Budget/Funding

A. First-year budget

Revenue (by source) and expenses (by category) for FY13 are shown in Table 2. Expected revenue is \$883,000, and expected expense is \$747,395, leaving an overage of \$135,605 carried into FY14. Note that IPR had accumulated about \$250,000 in unspent OSU funds as of the beginning of FY10, when Casterline became IPR Director. Since then this accumulation has been spent down through specific strategic investments, and this will continue.

B. Funding sources, and one-time and recurring costs

IPR has two main funding sources – Ohio State University and the National Institutes of Health - both of which are multi-year. (See Table 2.) The Ohio State University funding has three components: OAA (Academic Enrichment Award that enabled the founding of IPR in 2001); additional ASC/SBS support; return of IDC on external awards. The NIH funding comes in the form of a five-year R24 infrastructure award. The current award is for the period September 2009 – August 2014 (\$2.2 million in total costs). Almost certainly there will be an opportunity for competitive renewal of the R24.

Going forward, all of IPR's expenses are recurring. During FY11 and FY12, IPR incurred substantial costs in the renovation of office space in Townshend Hall and the move to this space. This one-time expenditure will be completed before FY13.

Table 2: IPR Budget: Revenue & Expenses FY 2013

B1) Funding Sources	
Revenue	FY13
<i>OSU General</i>	180,000
<i>OSU IDC</i>	150,000
<i>NIH R24</i>	309,000
<i>OSU Carry over</i>	175,000
<i>R24 Carry over</i>	69,000
<i>Total income</i>	883,000
B2) Recurring costs	
Expenses	FY13
<i>Personnel</i>	
Faculty	201,000
A&P Staff	223,000
GAA	28,000
Students	4,150
<i>Seminars & Workshops</i>	32,445
<i>Travel</i>	28,800
<i>Operating Exp</i>	30,000
<i>Seed Grants</i>	200,000
<i>Total Expenses</i>	747,395
FY 2013 Budget	
Revenue-Expenses	
Revenue	883,000
Expenses	747,395
Carryover	135,605

C. Equipment, space, facilities

At its inception in 2001 IPR was provided space in the Journalism Building. As IPR expanded in every respect – the number of faculty affiliates (many of whom have appointments in the health colleges or in Education & Human Ecology, i.e. some distance from Journalism), the number of administrative staff, the number of affiliated graduate students, and the intensity of the week-to-week activities (seminars, workshops, project meetings, etc.) -- it became clear that IPR's space in Journalism was seriously deficient both in size and in configuration. Accordingly, in 2008-09 the decision was made to re-locate IPR in renovated space in the basement of Townshend Hall, and this move occurred during 2010-11 (with additional small-scale renovation in 2011-12). Townshend Hall is a superb campus location for IPR, proximate to most of the social science departments and not far from the colleges of Nursing, Public Health, Medicine, and Education and Human Ecology. The renovation was financed largely by funds from the Population and Health TIE, supplemented by ASC/SBS funding.

In Townshend Hall IPR has office space that for the foreseeable future is more than adequate for its needs as an interdisciplinary research center. In total the Townshend Hall location has 6000 square feet. There are private offices for 10+ faculty (and post-doctoral research fellows), two full-time administrative staff, and 13 graduate students. All offices (or graduate student carrels) have a personal computer connected to the OSU network, and excellent WiFi connectivity is available throughout. Three rooms are set aside for “secure data”, i.e. analysis of social science data subject to strict agency confidentiality requirements. There is a mid-size conference room (maximum capacity 49 persons) that offers high-definition projection, and an additional small conference room. Finally, there is open space that provides a comfortable and appealing venue for occasional events.

D. Sustainability

As noted above, IPR receives financial support from Ohio State University and from the National Institutes of Health. Roughly 60% of IPR’s current funding comes from the NIH R24 center grant (including IDC from this award), and the remainder from OSU.

The R24 is a five-year competitive renewal award (\$2.2 million in total costs for FY10 – FY14). There is good reason to be optimistic about renewal – this has been the norm for this set of awards nationally for the past two decades – but this is hardly assured.

Were the R24 award *not* to be renewed, relying only on existing OSU support IPR could continue as an active research center that would make a distinctive and meaningful contribution to OSU. Continuing resources and activities could include: two full-time administrative staff; seminar series; didactic workshops; travel support to conferences (with some reduction). Activities that would be dropped or sharply curtailed include: seed grant program; faculty salary (director, heads of various “cores” such as methodology core and geographic analysis core).

V. Evaluative Criteria and Benchmarks

Criteria and benchmarks of IPR’s continuing growth and success are as follows:

1. Renewal of R24 NIH center grant. (Submission in first half of FY14, renewal effective FY15.)
2. Maintenance, and preferably growth, in portfolio of external awards obtained by IPR faculty affiliates. (Roughly \$2.5 million per annum in FY11 and FY12.)
3. Increase in the number of research projects conducted by IPR affiliates that have investigators from multiple disciplines.

VI. Letters of Support

A. Ohio State University: vice-president, deans, chairs

Appendix 2:

Dr. Caroline Whitacre, Vice President for Research
Dr. Gifford Weary, Dean, Division of Social & Behavioral Sciences, ASC
Dr. Stanley Lemeshow, Dean, College of Public Health
Dr. Cheryl Achterberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology
Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, Dean, College of Nursing
Dr. Donald Haurin, Chair, Department of Economics
Dr. Clark Larson, Chair, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Zhenchao Qian, Chair, Department of Sociology

B. External: interested parties

Not applicable.

C. External: peers at other universities

Appendix 3 contains letters from:

Dr. Kathleen Cagney, Director, Population Research Center, University of Chicago
Dr. Ann Pebley, Director, California Population Research Center, UCLA
Dr. Herbert Smith, Director, Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Pamela Smock, Director, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan

Appendix 1

Listing of Faculty Affiliates, by College and Department

Appendix 1. Faculty Affiliate List by College-Arts and Sciences

Name	Title	College/Division	Department
Cohen, Jeffrey H.	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Anthropology
Crews, Douglas E.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Anthropology
Larsen, Clark	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Anthropology
Moritz, Mark	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Anthropology
Piperata, Barbara A.	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Anthropology
Blau, David M.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Lee, Lung-fei	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Light, Audrey L.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Logan, Trevon D.	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Olsen, Randall J.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Reagan, Patricia B.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Steckel, Richard	Professor	Arts and Sciences/ SBS	Economics, Anthropology, History
Weinberg, Bruce A.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Economics
Brown, Lawrence A.	Professor Emeritus	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Geography
Kwan, Mei-Po	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Geography
Liu, Desheng	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Geography/ Statistics
McSweeney, Kendra	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Geography
Box-Steffensmeier, Janet	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Political Science
Wallace, Jeremy	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Political Science
Anderson, Barbara	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Psychology
Peters, Ellen	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Psychology
Thayer, Julian F.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Psychology
Bellair, Paul	Professor	Arts and Sciences/SBS	Sociology
Browning, Christopher R.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Buchmann, Claudia C. R.	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Casterline, John	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Colen, Cynthia G.	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Cooksey, Elizabeth C.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Crenshaw, Edward M.	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology

Downey, Douglas B.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Dwyer, Rachel E.	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Frank, Reanne	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Haynie, Dana L.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Qian, Zhenchao	Professor and Chair	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Roscigno, Vincent J.	Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Sayer, Liana C.	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Schmeer, Kammi K.	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Williams, Kristi L.	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Zheng, Hui	Assistant Professor	Arts and Sciences /SBS	Sociology
Calder, Catherine	Associate Professor	Arts and Sciences/NMS	Statistics
Stasny, Elizabeth	Professor and Chair	Arts and Sciences/NMS	Statistics

Appendix 1 (Cont.) Faculty Affiliate list by College -- Other

Name	Title	College/Division	Department
Gavazzi, Stephen M.	Professor	Education & Human Ecology	Human Development and Family Science
Kamp Dush, Claire	Assistant Professor	Education & Human Ecology	Human Development and Family Science
Petrill, Stephen A.	Professor	Education & Human Ecology	Human Development and Family Science
Schoppe -Sullivan, Sarah	Associate Professor	Education & Human Ecology	Human Development and Family Science
Snyder, Tasha	Associate Professor	Education & Human Ecology	Human Development and Family Science
Chen, Joyce	Assistant Professor	FAES	Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
Lobao, Linda	Professor	FAES	Rural Sociology, Human & Community Resource Development
Norris-Turner, Abigail	Assistant Professor	Medical/Public Health	Infectious Diseases
Ford, Jodi	Assistant Professor	Nursing	
Salsberry, Pamela J.	Professor	Nursing/ Public Health	
Lu, Bo	Assistant Professor	Public Health	Biostatistics

Ferketich, Amy K.	Associate Professor	Public Health	Epidemiology
Foraker, Randi E.	Assistant Professor	Public Health	Epidemiology
Norris, Alison H.	Assistant Professor	Public Health	Epidemiology
			Health Services Management and Policy
Seiber, Eric	Assistant Professor	Public Health	
Shoben, Abigail B.	Assistant Professor	Public Health	Biostatistics
			Health Services Management and Policy
Song, Paula	Assistant Professor	Public Health	
Wewers, Mary Ellen	Professor	Public Health	Health Behavior and Health Promotion
Zhu, Hong	Assistant Professor	Public Health	Biostatistics
Warren, Keith L.	Associate Professor	Social Work	

Appendix 2

Letters of Support:

Ohio State University Vice-President, Deans, Chairs

Dr. Caroline Whitacre, Vice President for Research
Dr. Gifford Weary, Dean, Division of Social & Behavioral Sciences, ASC
Dr. Stanley Lemeshow, Dean, College of Public Health
Dr. Cheryl Achterberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology
Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, Dean, College of Nursing
Dr. Donald Haurin, Chair, Department of Economics
Dr. Clark Larson, Chair, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Zhenchao Qian, Chair, Department of Sociology



Office of Research

Vice President for Research
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whitacre.3@osu.edu
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January 17, 2012

Dr. John B. Casterline
Lazarus Professor of Population Research
Director, Initiative in Population Research
210 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear John:

I am writing in strong support of the proposal for the Initiative in Population Research (IPR) to become a formal University Center. I have been quite impressed at the trajectory of growth and the success of the IPR since 2000 when it was founded. Only 6 years after its kick-off, this multi-disciplinary group of faculty, staff and students successfully competed for a Targeted Investment in Excellence award. This program was allocated \$2.4 in central resources for investment in new faculty and other center efforts. The TIE award allowed the Initiative to sponsor key activities like weekly seminars, methodological workshops, research working groups and seed grants. These initial activities, so critical to the growth of the center, culminated in the awarding of an NIH R24 Center grant, resulting in \$2.2M of federal funding for a further expansion of the center.

Today, the Initiative in Population Research has faculty from 8 colleges and 24 departments who engage in research areas as diverse as health disparities, geographic analyses of health and complex systems analysis. You also recently opened newly renovated collaborative space for the Population Research group in Townshend Hall. All of these milestones are indicative of the growing reputation of the Initiative and the strength of its research programs. It is apparent that the time has come to move from an Initiative in Population Research to an Institute for Population Research and I would like to give my wholehearted support for the move to Center status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline C. Whitacre".

Caroline C. Whitacre, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Professor of Microbial Infection and Immunity



SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

January 19th, 2012

Dr. John Casterline
210 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue
Campus 43210

Dear John:

I am writing to endorse the proposal to establish OSU's Initiative on Population Research (IPR) as an official university center. As a center, the title of the initiative would become Institute on Population Research. My reasons for strongly supporting conferral of formal center-status are several. IPR already is a strong center of interdisciplinary research. It has served as the intellectual home of our Population and Health Targeted in Investment in Excellence (TIE), and it was a major recipient of funds from that OAA- and SBS-funded program. Importantly, IPR has garnered significant external funding in a short period of time, funding that basically assures the sustainability of this vibrant center of research for years to come. With respect to its funding profile, IPR originally was funded with a pre-center award from NIH. Two and a half years ago, it received funding as one of the 20 national, NICHD-funded Population Research Centers. The plan of SBS always was to seek formal university center status once that population center award was received. In addition to individual PI grants, the center also has just received about \$3.8M in NIH and Grant foundation funding for a project on Ohio adolescent health outcomes.

Since its inception in 2000, it has supported research on health and family outcomes of children, adults, and communities from the level of populations (racial, ethnic, gender groups

neighborhoods, etc.). Such a research focus certainly requires investigators from various social science, public health, and nursing disciplines, to come together to address common concerns. However, increasingly the IPR group also has begun to supplement their traditional population level of analysis with more individual-level and biological measurements of health antecedents and consequences. In so doing, it has begun over the past 4+ years to reach out to and attract researchers from an even broader set of disciplines. At present, behavioral and health scientists from six colleges and fourteen departments across Ohio State University are active members of one or more of IPR's core working groups.

IPR has, more than any other interdisciplinary group with which I am familiar, developed a model that really works, a model wherein the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It has achieved this ideal outcome by its physical and operational structure and its regular activities. IPR is housed in newly renovated space (about 6000 sq feet) in Townshend Hall. It contains mostly offices for faculty affiliates, graduate student office space, meeting and lecture-hall size rooms, and space for collection and storage of large, sensitive data sets.

In terms of its operational structure, there are three core's or working groups that members across campus can join: health disparities, geographic analysis of health, and complex systems analysis. These groups explore research areas that are of great significance and/or newly emerging. In at least one recent instance, they have submitted a collaborative and large grant.

In addition to the core working groups, the center offers weekly seminars given by scholars from other universities as well as OSU faculty. The audience for these presentations is always multidisciplinary in nature and include faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students.. These seminars are heavily attended with the norm being about 50+ attendees. In addition to these regularly scheduled seminars, IPR offers each year a series of methodological workshops. These typically run about 1-2 days and are intended for members of the OSU community. Recent workshops have included one on geographic analysis, another on complex systems and agent-based modeling, and missing data. These workshops have been key to the success of

joint projects. It gives the multidisciplinary community served by IPR some shared and expanded skills which they can bring to collaborative research projects and proposal.

Probably the final aspect of IPR's activities, one that would be cited as among the important by faculty and students, is the seed grant program they have run each year. Priority has been given to truly interdisciplinary research projects, ones that show real promise of being able to secure external funds. Although some seed funding for pilot work is essential I know that the executive committee of IPR is constantly revisiting the value of its seed grant program. The major question has been whether it is achieving the desired outcome (collaborative grant submissions and awards) or whether other activities might be more central to its mission and success. I suspect that they will continue with the seed grant program. But the size, focus, or nature of it might well change as the activities and people involved in IPR grow and needs change. That kind of re-examination of core programs has been a hallmark of IPR, and it is no doubt one of the reasons for its success.

In sum, IPR has existed as a vibrant community of OSU scholars from multiple disciplines for 12 years. Its early years were funded by an NIH pre-award and SBS funds. It now has secured the funding that the legacy SBS college required before requesting formal university center status. Finally, it has been the intellectual home of our TIE health initiative. IPR has grown into a mature unit offering intellectual benefits to the greater university community. Its mission, its activities, its funding profile all argue for awarding center status to IPR at this time. I couldn't support this request any more strongly. Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely, .



Gifford Weary
Professor of Psychology and
Divisional Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences



College of Public Health

Office of the Dean
250 Cunz Hall
1841 Neil Avenue
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January 18, 2012

John B. Casterline, PhD
Lazarus Professor of Populations Studies
Directory, Initiative in Population Research
210 Townshend Hall Mall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Casterline:

I write in support of the Initiative in Population Research (IPR) application to become a university center. As dean of the College of Public Health, I have experienced the value that the initiative brings to this campus in linking a diverse group of population health scholars. The result is an interdisciplinary network of expertise around this critical field as evidenced by the recent five-year \$2.2 million center grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The initiative has been a part of the campus landscape since 2000, but has really come into its own since the university's investment in population and health research through the TIE program. The initiative's activities include seminars, the annual Huber Lecture, workshops, working groups, seed grants and working with graduate students. Almost one-quarter of the faculty of the College of Public Health are affiliates of IPR. The above mentioned NIH grant would not have been possible without the university's prior investment and the vibrant program of activities that resulted in such an investment.

The Initiative in Population Research is a perfect example of how to build a university's expertise in an area of strategic importance. I fully support the transition of this initiative into a university center in order to continue this progress.

Sincerely,

Stanley A. Lemeshow, PhD
Dean and Professor



Office of the Dean

College of Education and Human Ecology
127 Arps Hall
1945 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43210-1172

Phone (614) 292-2461
Fax (614) 292-8052

January 23, 2012

Dr. John Casterline
The Ohio State University
Initiative in Population Research
1885 Neil Ave. Mall
60C Townshend Hall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Casterline:

I am writing today to express my support for the Initiative of Population Studies becoming an official university center. This initiative is already a well-established and active presence on campus, with a vibrant program of activities. Multiple affiliates within the College of Education and Human Ecology have already experienced the benefits of participation with this initiative.

I believe that the Institute for Population Research, as the initiative hopes to become, would be a viable and important addition to The Ohio State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Achterberg".

Cheryl Achterberg, Ph.D.

Professor of Nutrition

Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology



College of Nursing

Office of the Dean
Newton Hall
1585 Neil Ave
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone (614) 292-8900
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January 23, 2012

John Casterline, PhD
Director, Initiative in Population Research
Robert T. Lazarus Chair in Population Studies
Department of Sociology
The Ohio State University

Dear John:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support to establish the Institute for Population Research as an Ohio State University center. Interdisciplinary centers are critical for bringing diverse scholars together and are key to moving the University's research agenda forward. Nursing's interest overlaps with IPR in many areas and having this Center at Ohio State is an important resource as our College embarks on recruiting top scholars from around the country. Having a network that these scholars can access easily is clear strength for us all.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernadette Melnyk".

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP/PMHNP, FNAP, FAAN
Associate Vice President for Health Promotion
University Chief Wellness Officer
Dean, College of Nursing
The Ohio State University



Department of Economics

410 Arps Hall
1945 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210-1172

Phone (614) 292-6701
Fax (614) 292-3906

January 10, 2012

John Casterline
Director, Initiative in Population Research
251 Journalism Building

Dear John,

I write with strong support for the Initiative in Population Research (IPR) becoming a formal university center under the title "Institute for Population Research." I note that IPR has been a presence on campus for many years and it has strong ties with the faculty in the Department of Economics. These ties are numerous and include faculty in Economics attending the many IPR sponsored seminars, presenting at these seminars, participating in IPR's working and study groups on special topics, and receiving seed funding for important research topics. This seed funding is important to both the researcher and the department because it often leads to further external grant support. I have found all of the IPR directors to be collegial and to help foster interdisciplinary work. The existence of IPR is beneficial in other less tangible ways such as recruiting new faculty. Often IPR is positively noted as an example of the university's commitment to population research and to interdisciplinary work. It helps to provide an infrastructure for research in this field, a critical need because the research occurs in many disciplines.

In summary, I give my strongest support to IPR being recognized as a formal university center. It is certainly timely for this change in designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald Haurin".

Donald Haurin
Chair, Department of Economics



Department of Anthropology

4034 Smith Laboratory
174 West 18th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1106

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11 January 2012

Dr. John B. Casterline
Initiative in Population Research
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Casterline:

I am writing to offer my strongest possible support for your application to change the designation of the Initiative in Population Research (IPR) to a center, to be called the Institute for Population Research. I am very impressed with the high level of productivity, professionalism, and activity in general of the IPR. In effect, it has been operating at the level of expectation for a university center for some time now, and the change in designation should be made. In addition, the award of an NIH center grant indicates that the NIH, a primary source of funding for the leading centers nationally (e.g., University of North Carolina). The award signifies the NIH's, expectation that the IPR is a national player in the area of population studies, and especially involving a range of disciplines. The IPR at Ohio State has also been extraordinarily productive in bringing together the range of disciplines here on campus that deal with population research, including Anthropology. Moreover, the IPR has hosted a range of events, including its very popular lecture/seminar series. This too, speaks to the identity and viability of the IPR as a center. Lastly, the IPR has been highly productive and generous in providing seed grants for faculty, new and advanced, for beginning new projects and developing research programs that will be competitive for national funding, such as from the NIH and NSF. In this regard, the seed grant program has provided funds to a number of Anthropology faculty, which has been instrumental in beginning new and innovative research.

In summary, the IPR warrants center designation at Ohio State. I look forward to many years of participation in and support of Ohio State University's Institute for Population Research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Clark S. Larsen".

Clark Spencer Larsen
Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Chair



Department of Sociology

238 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone (614) 292-6681
Fax (614) 292-6687
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January 20, 2012

Professor John Casterline
Director, Initiative in Population Research
Lazarus Professor of Population Studies
Ohio State University

Dear John:

I'm writing this letter in strong support of Initiative in Population Research (IPR) to become a university research center, Institute for Population Research (IPR). I came to Ohio State in 2002 and became an IPR associate on the first day I was on campus. It has been gratifying to experience the growth of IPR and I'm glad that IPR is now an exceptional research center for interdisciplinary population research.

Supported by the interdisciplinary targeted investment in excellence (TIE), funded by a NICHD center grant, and under your outstanding leadership, IPR has emerged to become one of the premier research centers on campus and in the nation. It is the place where faculty and students from various disciplines gather to present their research findings, discuss new ideas, form working groups to explore innovative research, and collaborate on interdisciplinary projects. I have benefited tremendously from IPR, attending weekly seminars, having opportunities to know many colleagues outside the discipline, and collaborating with them on various projects.

IPR is well known in the nation for its exemplary work on family demography, health and wellbeing, and geographic analysis. These programs have grown over time, with more faculty and student participation, more research grants, and more research achievements. Its focus on health and wellbeing is particularly important because of its perfect fit to the university health and wellbeing discovery theme. The IPR platform links health and wellbeing with social and economic stratification. This is highly significant as we try to understand better disparities in health and wellbeing across various population groups.

Over half of the faculty and graduate students in Department of Sociology are involved with IPR, which provides a hub of speakers and events as well as seed funding for population research. Our sociology faculty members are active participants of various interdisciplinary projects and have received seed grants to support their grant activities. Faculty research productivity and grant applications have increased as a result. In addition, our junior faculty members and graduate students are attracted to IPR for its excellent support in grant writing, mentoring, and research activities.

Institute for Population Research, a full-fledged research center, will make Ohio State well positioned for top-notch interdisciplinary population research. It has my strongest support.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zhenchao Qian".

Zhenchao Qian
Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology

Appendix 3

Letters of Support: Peers at Other Universities

Dr. Kathleen Cagney, Director, Population Research Center, University of Chicago
Dr. Ann Pebley, Director, California Population Research Center, UCLA
Dr. Herbert Smith, Director, Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Pamela Smock, Director, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan



Population Research Center (PRC)
NORC *at the* University of Chicago
1155 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
Ph: (773) 256-6315
Fax: (773) 256-6313

January 20, 2012

John B. Casterline
Director, Initiative in Population Research
Robert T. Lazarus Professor in Population Studies
Department of Sociology
Ohio State University
238 Townshend Hall / 1885 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1222

Dear Professor Casterline:

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on the research trajectory of the Initiative in Population Research (IPR), and on its potential to join the community of research centers at the Ohio State University. In this letter I will speak to the contributions of its Research Associates, the import of its current funding support, and the investments IPR is making to enhance population scholarship.

IPR includes a rich group of population researchers who speak to the breadth and depth of population sciences. Scholars such as yourself, David Blau, Christopher Browning, Claudia Buchmann, Elizabeth Cooksey, Reanne Frank, Mei-Po Kwan, and Kristi Williams are active and productive researchers and a regular presence at the Population Association of America conference, our flagship meeting (I should note that I came up with those names quickly, without review of a list). This set of names also reflects the interdisciplinary nature of IPR; sociology, economics, geography, and public health are but a subset of the disciplines and schools represented. I would make the claim that the most exciting and innovative work in population sciences is happening at the intersection of these disciplines; IPR is creating an environment where such work can be initiated, and ultimately will flourish.

Currently, IPR holds an NIH R24 infrastructure award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). These are difficult awards to obtain, and are only given to institutions that NICHD reviewers deem have real promise to shape the future of population sciences. My knowledge of the quality of your proposal led me, in 2009, to ask you to review the first few pages of my NICHD Center application. I knew I would get sound advice, based on your work and the reputation of IPR.

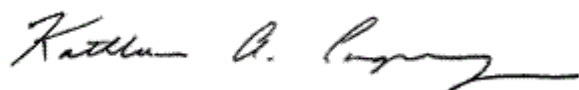
That reputation continues to grow. IPR is making wise investments in seed funding and research support for its OSU Associates. The Geographic Analysis core nicely links advances in geography with those in demography, and your current project on activity space and adolescent well-being (IPR-sponsored and now NIH-funded) is considered a benchmark, at the national level, for other scholars

who are attempting to understand the linkages between residential location and the area in which adolescents engage in routine activities. I anticipate other such novel work will emerge from collaborations within IPR.

I wholeheartedly support the establishment of IPR as a University center. It is well-poised for such a transition, and the faculty would be well-served by the investment that such a change suggests. Please let me know if you should have any questions about my contention or about the content of this letter. I can be reached at 773-256-6341 or by e-mail at kacagney@uchicago.edu.

I wish you great success in the continued development of IPR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen A. Cagney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kathleen A. Cagney
Director, Population Research Center
Associate Professor, Departments of Sociology and Health Studies



ANNE R. PEBLEY
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January 12, 2012

John Casterline, PhD
Lazarus Professor of Sociology
Director, Initiative in Population Research
56 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Ave
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear John,

I am writing in connection with the OSU Initiative in Population Research's application to become an official university center to be named the Institute for Population Research. As you know, I am Director of the California Center for Population Research at UCLA. Prior to my arrival at UCLA, I served as Associate Director of the Office of Population Research at Princeton University (the oldest population research center in the country) and as Director of the RAND Population Research Center. In addition, I served for several years on the NICHD study section which reviews funding applications for population research centers and I have also participated in a number of recent reviews of NIH R24 and R21 applications for population centers. As a result, I have considerable familiarity with ranking, quality, and evolution of population research centers in the United States.

I strongly support the Initiative in Population Research's (IPR) application to transition to a formal OSU university center. IPR has an active and nationally-recognized group of researchers who are very productive. IPR also hold an NIH R24 infrastructure award for population research. Relatively few of these grants are awarded by NIH and the award is based on a center's productivity, past performance and future plans, mentoring of junior colleagues, intellectual environment, and promise for the future. The fact that IPR competed successfully for an R24 grant demonstrates that it is a strong and productive center with considerable promise for the future. The upward trajectory of IPR is clearly demonstrated by its growth over the past 5-10 years and I anticipate that it will continue to grow into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne R. Pebley".

Anne R. Pebley, PhD
Fred H. Bixby Professor of Population Studies
UCLA School of Public Health
Director, California Center for Population Research



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Herbert L. Smith
Professor of Sociology
Director, Population Studies Center
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13 January 2012

Professor John B. Casterline
Lazarus Professor of Population Studies
and Director, Initiative in Population Research
The Ohio State University
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear John,

I write to congratulate you and your colleagues on your many accomplishments under the Initiative in Population Research, and to endorse strongly your initiative to make it a formal university center — the Institute for Population Research. It is well merited and will benefit all concerned.

During a decanal stint a few years back here at Penn, I learned a thing or two about university institutes and school-based centers. Most of it, alas, was not good. A multi-disciplinary or interdisciplinary center (or institute) has a lot to recommend it, in theory. It can take advantage of intellectual synergies and affinities in a way that can be difficult for the traditional academic departments. (Nor is it easy to redefine the traditional departments to match whatever is current or evolving; look at Arizona State.) In practice, however, at Penn at least (and I have heard the same elsewhere), at the worst most centers turn out to be vanity operations and on average they turn out to be well-meaning cargo cults: Structures built on wishful thinking about how faculty work together to do research and training; or on semantic equivalences; but in neither event of sufficient avail to make the big birds land with “the stuff.” So the life of a dean can be one of, if not shutting down these hollowed-out offices, at least trying to make sure that they do not proliferate.

But when they work, they work really, really well, in the sense of being very positive externalities for a university, building off of existing strengths, and making everyone more visible and more productive. I won't be coy; I'm a lucky guy. I have been able to spend my career at one of those places — Penn's Population Studies Center — which I am now honored to direct. I get the most important of intellectual and scientific resources — a lot of great colleagues centered, yes, in my department (sociology) and in economics, but from the rest of the university as well. Good stuff builds on good stuff. But we are rarity, at Penn and elsewhere. It has often made me ponder what is required.

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I think that there are two main things. The first is intellectual and scientific, and it is something that we share: the population theme. Although, sure, it means different things to different people, it is essentially one side of a large condominium: population sciences and behavioral sciences. Many departments are in both, many people are in both, and there are many of both (departments and people) in each (the population sciences and the behavioral sciences). But there is a distinction in degree, and occasionally in kind: The population sciences are concerned with issues of human aggregation. This is the rates and composition perspective of traditional demography; the emerging economics synthesis that now specifies macroeconomic (including macro-demographic) processes in micro models of behavior; the assortative mating and differential fertility that conditions the population expression of genetic discoveries in laboratories and clinics; and the organizational problems of translating pharmaceutical and clinical protocols to population health in heterogeneous hospitals, healthcare organizations, insurance schemes, and communities. What creates intellectual and scientific synergies is not a shared preoccupation with, say, “demographic variables” (age, sex, and so on); but a class of related problems that show up again and again in what at first blush appear to be different guises. This is necessary. You have it. It is not sufficient.

The second thing that is required is a deep group of highly skilled researchers who want to take advantage of the shared intellectual terrain. Ohio State is a big university with no end of well-known researchers. That’s a big deal, but it does not, in and of itself, ensure that the mayonnaise will, as the French say, “take.” You need commitment from a concerted core of faculty and some shared positive experiences. Easier said than done, but go back to the first sentence of my letter: Congratulations. You guys have done it already. I had thought to make an already long letter all the more so in going into a heartfelt paean — there are so many of you across so many fields (and now, eras) whom I know, and for whom I have a deep appreciation, both intellectual and institutional. Fortunately, the universalistic exterior world has already sanctified you in a way that has more meaning than my opinion. First, flagship journals associated with the field (*Demography* and the *American Sociological Review*). Second, the R24 infrastructure award from the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. As the PI of one of those things, I *know* that they are hard to get and to keep. You guys are now that much more competition!

But intense, collegial scientific competition is what this is all about. Having the university formally recognize that your Initiative is indeed a center or institute is not vanity, and it is not cult worship of false gods. It’s a highly efficient exploitation of an existing investment.

Best wishes,

Herbert L. Smith
Professor of Sociology
Director, Population Studies Center
Interim Director, Population Aging Research Center

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

POPULATION STUDIES CENTER

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January 20, 2012

Professor John Casterline
Director, Initiative in Population Research
Robert T. Lazarus Chair in Population Studies, Department of Sociology
The Ohio State University
Rm 060 Townshend Hall, 1885 Neil Ave Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear John,

I am delighted to support your efforts to make the Initiative in Population Research (IPR) a University research center at the Ohio State University. As Director of the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan, I can attest that IPR holds this standing de facto in the eyes of the population studies community. IPR faculty members are accomplished and nationally recognized population scientists. In addition, you have some of the most promising early and mid-career population scientists in the country. I believe this is indicative of a trajectory of growing strength in population studies worldwide for IPR.

Moreover, you hold the very competitive Population Research Infrastructure grant (R24) from the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*. This award signals that IPR is deemed by your peers from other R24 population research centers as one of the key centers for population science in the country. Congratulations on IPR's success in building a population research center of this caliber.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Smock
Director and Research Professor, Population Studies Center
Professor of Sociology