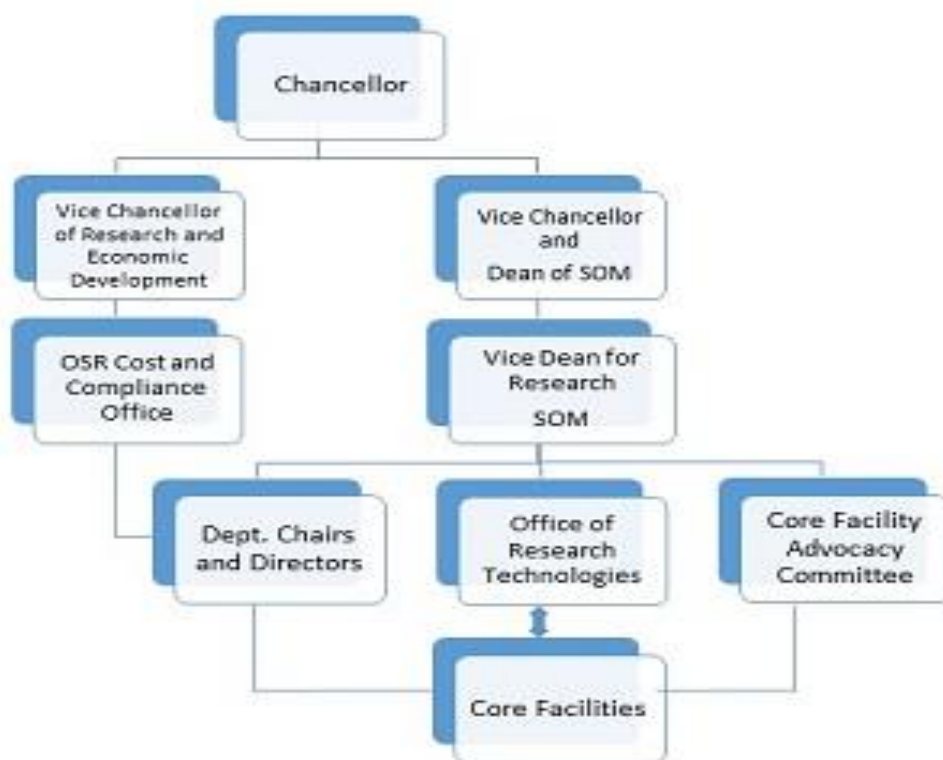


Guidelines for Starting, Sustaining, Consolidating, and Ending Core Facilities

At various times every year decisions must be made about core facilities. The decisions include one-time funding events - such as for emergencies, for new equipment, and for development of new technologies. Decisions also must be made about “life-cycle” events - such as starting a new core facility, providing funding to help sustain a core facility that cannot survive solely from recharge, consolidating core facilities to achieve efficiencies, and ending a core facility that has outlived either its usefulness or its ability to sustain operations. The Guidelines that form the basis for each of these decisions are outlined below and are the topic of discussion.

To initiate actions on one-time and life-cycle events of core facilities, requests should be brought to the attention of the Dean’s Office either by contacting the Office of Research, a CFAC member, or the Assistant Dean for Research Technologies. The proposed action will be weighed, guided by the below criteria, and brought to CFAC for study based on detailed reports of the core facilities involved. CFAC will then advise the Vice Dean for Research of its findings.



Criteria and Evaluation Guidelines for Core Facilities

Applies to core facilities open to all investigators (both recharge and collaborative cores)

One Time Funding Events (not in order of priority)

A. One-time funding (equipment, emergency) established core facilities

- Justification
- Users: satisfaction level; breadth of user base; number of users
- Rate schedule for services up to date and properly aligned with expenses
- Falls within budgetary constraints
- Previous amounts of funding by CFAC (spread the wealth)
- Recruitment tool
- Contributes to the research and teaching mission of UNC
- Improves prospects for obtaining individual grant support
- Services cannot be duplicated by outside vendors

Life-Cycle Funding Events

B. Start-up new cores facilities

- Business Plan
- Scientific/technology-driven by investigator needs
- Driven by strategic investment in targeted areas of research
- Department- and Center-specific needs and support
- Technology/service too complicated and/or expensive for individual labs to support
- Recruitment tool
- Contributes to the research and teaching mission of the university
- Improves prospects for obtaining individual grant support
- Services cannot be duplicated by outside vendors

C. Long-term funding established core facilities

- Strategic technology need that cannot recover all costs
- Users: satisfaction level; breadth of user base; number of users
- Rate schedule for services up to date and properly aligned with expenses
- Falls within budgetary constraints
- Recruitment tool
- Contributes to the research and teaching mission of the university
- Improves prospects for obtaining individual grant support
- Services cannot be duplicated by outside vendors

D. Consolidating core facilities

- Reduce redundancy
 - low usage in one or more of redundant cores.
 - gain advantages of scale
 - save money
 - save space
 - cross-train staff
 - save on equipment needs and costs
- Complementary technologies in different cores that gain from closer ties.

E. Sunsetting core facilities

- Ongoing and increasing deficits
- Not having a viable plan for reducing deficits
- Ongoing low or decreasing usage
- Outdated technology
- Cost of either upgrading technology or buying new technology is prohibitive and would not return the core to viability
- Existence of other available sources for non-strategic, routine services