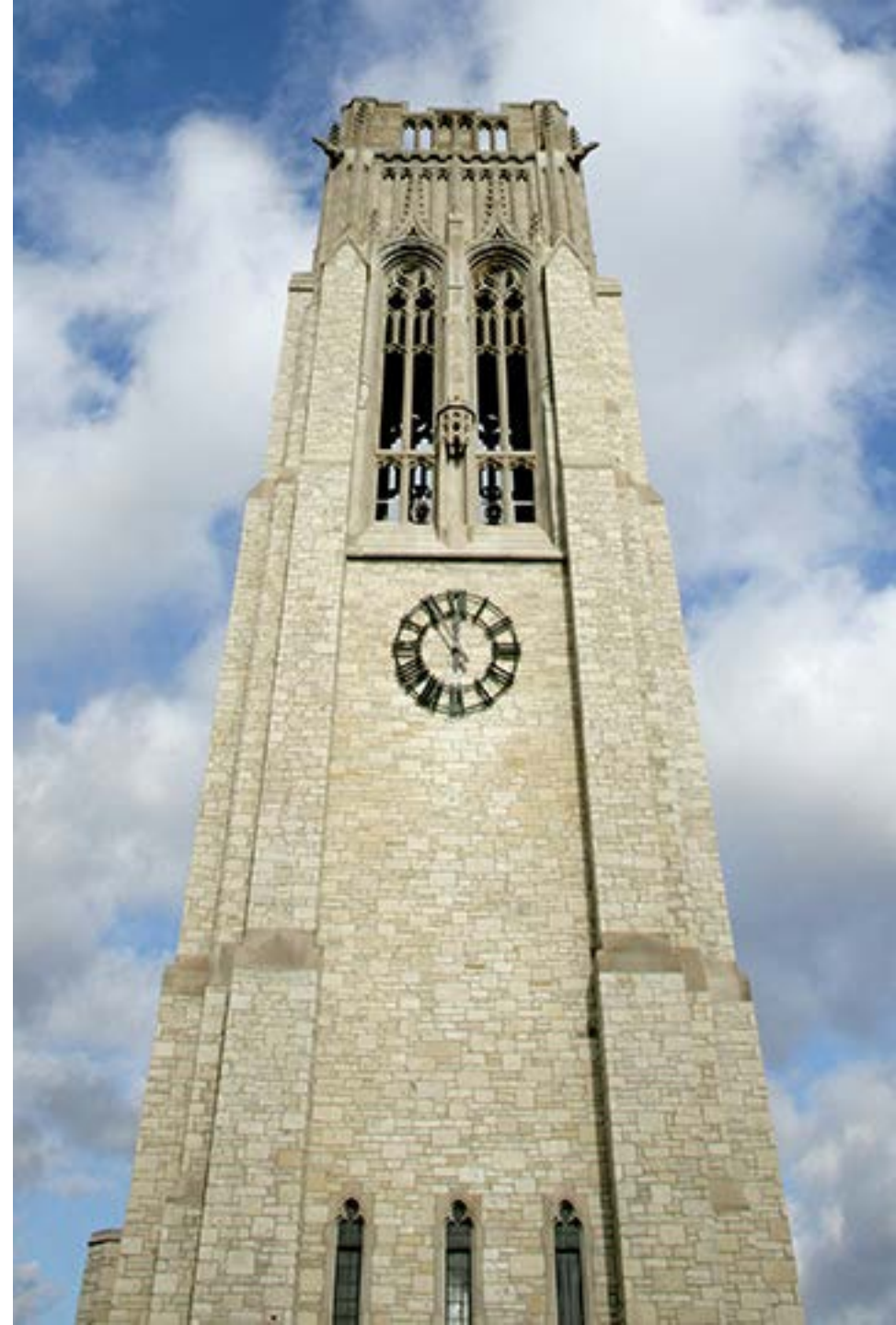


UT Areas of Research Excellence

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Vice President for Research
Graduate Council
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Central to the UT Strategic Plan Goal to Enhance UT's Standing as a Research University

- Achieve national recognition for research excellence
- Increase the national prominence of faculty derived from their research, scholarship, and creative and performing arts
- Reinvent and reinvest in research processes to improve productivity
- *Develop and implement a plan for national recognition in up to five areas of research excellence building upon the University's unique faculty strengths, assets and centers to support research excellence and opportunities for growth and development*



What is an Area of Research Excellence?



- Area with a critical mass of faculty members (at least five) with a national reputation in research and scholarly activity
- The standing of UT compares us favorably with groups at other leading research universities (Big 10, AAU, etc.)

(UT has many individual faculty members with national and international recognition, but may not have the critical mass of faculty to rise as an Area of Research Excellence)

Year-Long Process in Identifying Centers

- Evaluate sponsored research and publication activity across campus
- Invite submission from across campus
 - 31 received
- Engage the University Research Council in rating submissions for meeting the standard of research excellence
 - 8 scored highest
- Seek external assessments from nationally recognized experts at premier universities
 - 6 scored highest
- Invite top areas to present and answer questions from Research Council
 - three areas rose to top
- Work with UT President and Provost on final listing

Categories of Excellence

- **Areas of Research Excellence**

Critical mass of faculty who are recognized for exceptional contributions in their fields and can stand among the strongest academic groups

- **Spotlight Areas of Distinction**

Areas where UT has recognition for contributions and outstanding faculty leadership but having fewer faculty members than in Areas of Research Excellence

1. RECOGNIZED AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE Astronomy and Astrophysics Solar Energy, Water Quality and Sustainable Technologies Cell Architecture and Dynamics	2. SPOTLIGHT AREAS OF UNIQUE DISTINCTION Human Trafficking Disability and Society Hypertension and Precision Medicine
3. AREAS OF EMERGING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE Legacy Cities Cancer, Immune Therapy and Precision Molecular Therapy	4. AREAS OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITY Vector Biology Smart Transportation Data 2 Decision BioPsychoSocial Determinants of Chronic Disease Community-Based STEAM

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- **Areas of Emerging Research Excellence**
Areas with a core group of faculty members with excellent contributions in their fields and with national standing where UT is favorably positioned for leadership in the area
- **Areas of Future Opportunity**
Areas with core of several faculty members in an area of emerging importance in science, technology and society

Categories of Excellence

Areas of Research Excellence

- Solar Energy, Water Quality and Sustainable Technologies
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Cell Architecture and Dynamics

Spotlight Areas of Distinction

- Human Trafficking
- Disability and Society
- Hypertension and Precision Medicine



Categories of Excellence



Areas of Emerging Research Excellence

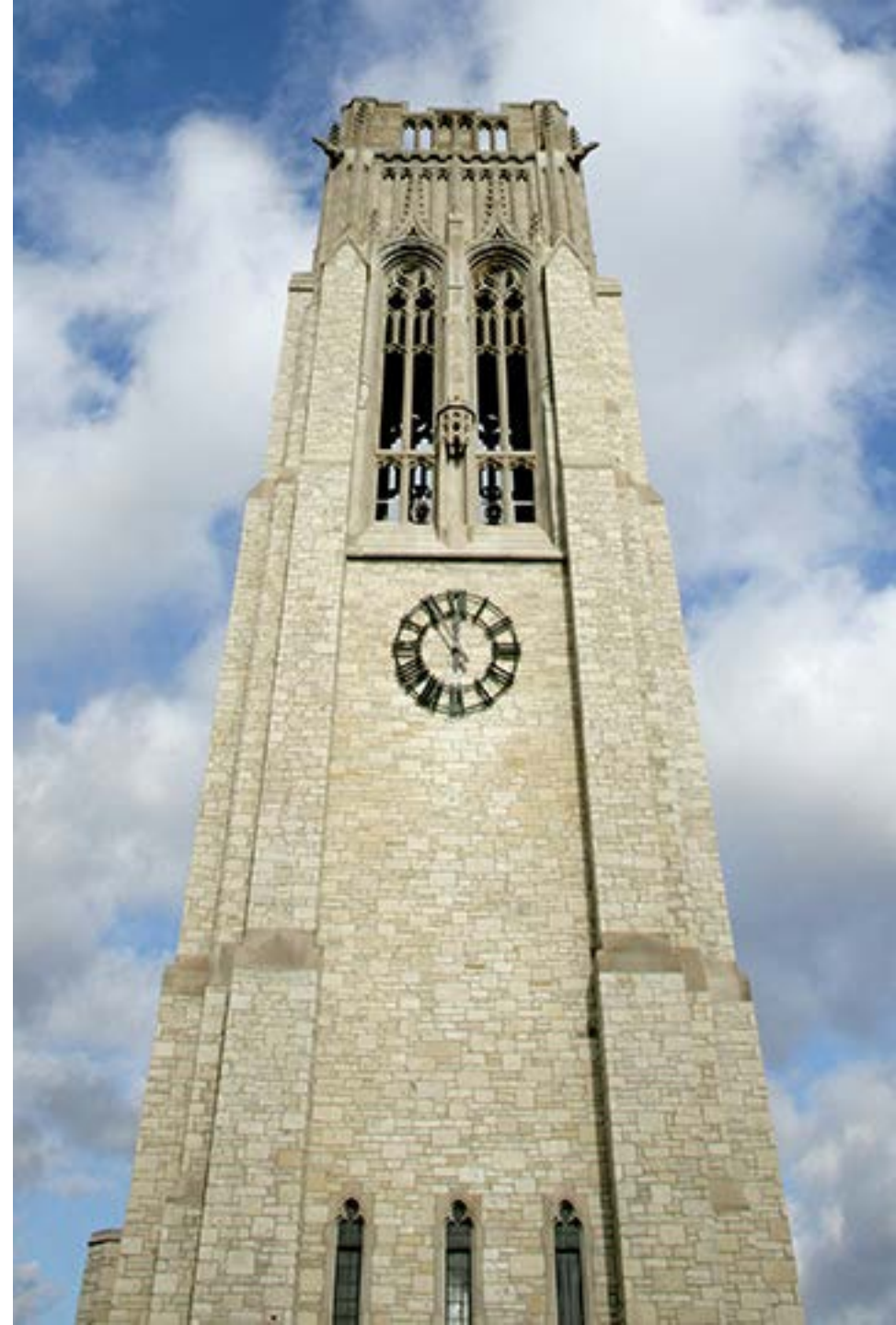
- Legacy Cities
- Cancer and Advanced Therapies

Areas of Future Opportunity

- Vector Biology
- Smart Transportation
- Data 2 Decision
- BioPsychoSocial Determinants of Health
- Community-Based STEAM

Investments in Areas of Research Excellence

- Solar Energy, Water Quality and Sustainable Technologies
 - Newly created senior faculty position in water research search underway
- Cell Architecture and Dynamics
 - \$500,000 microscope purchased
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
 - Astrophysics Remote Observing Facility approval submitted to state controlling board this week



Next Steps

- Monitor progress in areas
- Assist in developing emerging areas
- Identify external support for investment

