**TO**: All CALS Faculty Members

**FROM**: The Dean’s Research Advisory Committee (DRAC): Betsy Arnold, David Breshears, Emily Butler, Jon Chorover , George Frisvold, Linda Houtkooper, Molly Hunter, John Palumbo, Kirsten Limesand (Co-Chair) & Rod Wing (Co-Chair)

**What**: *CALS Research Innovation Challenge*

**When**: May 15th and 16th, 2014

**Where**: Keating BioResearch Building – BIO5

**Concept**: The DRAC is organizing the first “CALS Research Innovation Challenge” at the end of spring semester. Our concept is to get all CALS faculty members to know each other better from a research perspective with the goal of fostering new and innovative research ideas, and training grants.

This 1.5 day event will feature: 1) one minute oral “research snap shots” from each faculty participant; 2) two poster sessions describing your current and future research goals; and 3) an opportunity to compete for three $9,000 seed grant awards. These awards will be given to teams of three faculty members, each from a different department/school, who have never shared a funded grant before and who submit a short proposal by May 23rd. The proposals will be reviewed and the winners announced on June 2nd. We emphasize that research from all aspects of CALS will be competitive for these seed grants.

For those who do not participate in the competition, a session will be available to discuss innovative ideas on how CALS faculty can collaborate together to write and successfully compete for competitive graduate and postdoctoral training grants.

**Wish**: The DRAC hopes to see as many CALS faculty members attend as possible. This will be a fun and exciting event!!!!

**What’s Next**: Please save these dates for the Research Innovation Challenge on your calendar. Information on how to participate in the oral “research snap shots”, poster sessions and the seed grant award competition will be sent out soon.