

**Office of the President**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION TRANSFER AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP:**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

*For Meeting of August 28, 2023*

**UPDATE ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVES**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Entrepreneurship is a vital vehicle for moving innovations out of the laboratory and into the marketplace. The University of California is a major incubator of new technologies, therapeutics, and other inventions that address a myriad of human needs, while contributing to the vitality of the California economy. While the University recognizes the signal importance of innovation, there is still much headroom to streamline the process and grow the volume of patentable work growing in UC laboratories and classrooms. The University is committed to those end points and has just formed the President's Entrepreneurship Network Council (henceforth the Council) to shepherd the process.

This item will update the Special Committee on the formation of the Council and its proposed membership, describe plans for its first six months, then introduce a major new program sponsored by the Governor's office for non-U.S. born entrepreneurs at all levels who have graduated from UC campus programs.

**PRESIDENT'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK COUNCIL**

At the request of President Drake, Provost Newman and UC Berkeley Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Richard Lyons initiated conversations about ways to further the ambitions that animate the Special Committee. This led to the development of a document with five principles for guiding the Council's work, among them that the Council will have action at its core and that the goal is value delivered at the level of the campuses. This document also specifies that the Council will focus its efforts on three projects of its own choosing, designed such that clear evidence of the "needle having been moved" can be expected over two years.

In partnership with UC campuses, a list of about 30 of the strongest recommendations for members was assembled. Given that the Council will be a "roll-up-the-sleeves" undertaking, attention was focused on candidates who were comfortable putting material time into the effort. Having action at the core also meant that the Council needs more representation of people who

truly understand the operating system of the campuses and University than might have been the case in past such efforts.

Council Chair Lyons was involved in all subsequent interviews. Provost Newman, UC San Diego Associate Vice Chancellor Paul Roben, and UC Irvine CIO Errol Arkilic also helped with interviews.

In the process of interviewing potential Council members, it became clear that: 1) the Council has a surfeit of outstanding candidates, 2) many of them volunteered to help along the way as a kind of volunteer expert panel supporting the Council's work, and 3) those individuals named to the formal Council will be divided into three project teams as soon as possible. The expert panel can, for example, bolster the Council in technical areas and allow the formal membership to focus on the main goal of moving the needle on three substantive projects.

The following individuals are now in the process of being appointed to the Council by President Drake:

- **Richard Lyons (chair)**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, UC Berkeley
- **Errol Arkilic**, Chief Innovation Officer and Executive Director of UC Irvine Beall Applied Innovation
- **Ashley Cornelison**, Vice President, Georgia Research Alliance
- **Jenny Du**, Co-Founder of Apeel Sciences
- **Ralph Gonzales**, Associate Dean for Clinical Innovation and Chief Innovation Officer for UCSF Health
- **Josh Green**, Advisor to Startups; Lecturer at UCLA Law; Regents Advisor
- **Osman Kibar**, Founder and CEO of Samumed
- **Kelly Harkins Kincaid**, Founding CEO of Astrea Forensics LLC; Co-Founder, Claret Bioscience
- **Katherine Newman**, UC Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
- **Rosibel Ochoa**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Technology Partnerships; Adjunct Professor for Chemical and Environmental Engineering at UC Riverside
- **Paul Roben**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Innovation and Commercialization, UC San Diego
- **Julia Schaletzky**, Executive Director, Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases, Drug Discovery Center, UC Berkeley
- **Damon Tull**, Director for Industry Alliances, UC Davis Graduate School of Management
- **Van Williams**, Vice President of Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer, University of California

In its first year, the Council is proposing to focus on three deliverables, which it will further develop in its first meetings. Topics about which there is already excitement include (1) Proof-of-Concept Support: unlocking greater resources to help faculty entrepreneurs with support for prototyping, experimental trials, and market assessment; (2) Faculty Mentoring: cultivating

sector-specific mentors (e.g. in smart agriculture, artificial intelligence, medical device development, etc.), including faculty peers, willing to advise UC's budding inventors and founders, bringing the parties together to structure their collaboration, and ensuring a working relationship that lasts; and (3) Translational Research Methods: developing opportunities for formal training in application-oriented research that is more likely to result in startups, and leveraging existing experience in the National Laboratories and major federal initiatives such as the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act of 2022 and the U.S. Department of Energy's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program.

The University aims to have a first meeting of the full Council by the end of August, which will be recorded for those who cannot attend. The plan is to break into first-stage work teams immediately to help move more quickly on the three selected projects. The second-stage work teams will be organized expressly around the three selected topics.

### **NEW STATE FUNDING**

Governor Newsom's updated budget proposes to invest \$2 million for the University to pilot a program to support non-U.S.-born entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs-in-the-making, including faculty, soon-to-graduate students, and recent alumni in accordance with federal law. This pilot funding will complement recent State investments in immigrant talent and opportunity through efforts for youth, college students, workers, and those pursuing professional licenses and entrepreneurship, including undocumented Californians.

The Council plans to review University data on numbers of non-U.S.-born students and postdoctoral scholars across the UC system and discuss the "optional practical training" visa system that enables UC graduates from other countries to enter the U.S. labor market for a period of one to three years. This will provide broad context for this new program. The Council will also discuss the barriers to entry for international graduates who are interested in developing start-ups and consider what kinds of assistance the University might offer to increase their impact.

UC has had one meeting with the Governor's team on this topic and has another on the calendar. The "early thinking" includes three principles: 1) Leverage existing programming around the campuses; 2) Leverage a three-part model based on teaming, acceleration, and first funding; 3) Ensure that value being delivered is squarely at the campus level.

Developing even more inclusive opportunities for entrepreneurship at UC will be infused in everything the Council does over the next two years, and supporting this immigrant talent program is in keeping with that. The specific bundle of support can be expected to look different at the different campuses. But the overall framework will have common features, and UC expects this work to align well with the three major projects the Council takes on.