

Office of the President**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION TRANSFER
& ENTREPRENEURSHIP****DISCUSSION ITEM***For Meeting of June 2, 2023***ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Newman will share an update on the formation of the President's Entrepreneurship Network Council, a new advisory group to be convened by UC President Drake. Richard K. Lyons, the inaugural Chair of the Council and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at UC Berkeley, will present on the Council's goals and objectives. This update follows an initial presentation on this Council by Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom at the Special Committee's February 2023 meeting.

BACKGROUND

Teaching, research and public service are fundamental to the University of California's mission. Underpinning all three of these pillars is a strong commitment to entrepreneurship as a vehicle for dissemination and application of UC-created knowledge. The strength of the support for entrepreneurship comes from size, diversity, and the quality of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. A large, diverse network of accomplished advisors and mentors greatly amplifies a UC campus's ability to license and commercialize ideas and to generate public value. The University's commitment to innovation also underscores the many ways that University research and innovation have shaped California's economic growth and diversification. Some of the State's largest and strongest industry sectors have sprung from discoveries made on UC campuses.

To improve the reach and volume of UC's research commercialization and entrepreneurship activities, President Drake will convene the President's Entrepreneurship Network Council in 2023 with the goal of materially advancing the UC system's capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E).

Objectives

The work of the President's Entrepreneurship Network Council will be centered around the following principles:

- **Campus Support:** The Council will support and enlarge campus efforts to develop entrepreneurial activity from invention to commercialization. The Council's top priority will be activities that provide direct and substantial value for campuses.

- **Action:** The Council will be action-oriented, prioritizing activities and steps that directly support the University's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- **Resources:** A vital part of building UC's I&E capacity is attracting additional investment in early-stage commercialization, while supporting campus efforts to increase the revenue that proceeds from innovation.
- **Campus-driven agenda:** The Council will set its own agenda that is rooted in campus priorities and needs.
- **Impact:** The Council's work will focus in areas where it can have the most durable impact.

Deliverables

The Council envisions developing three core deliverables over the Council's first two years, focused in the areas of mentoring, funding, and collaboration:

- **Mentoring:** The Council will explore developing a platform for faculty entrepreneurs to connect with commercialization mentors.
- **Funding:** The Council will examine how the University could support inventors and entrepreneurs with proof-of-concept (POC)/pre-commercialization funding.
- **Collaboration:** The Council will investigate new approaches to building collaboration and shared capacity on and across UC campuses. For instance, the Council will explore new ways to share I&E capacity advances across UC, to facilitate inter-campus connections between innovators and aligned facilities, to build interest among external funders in campus-based innovations, among other strategies.

Council Leadership and Meetings

President Drake will convene the Council in 2023 to advise him, as well as the UC Office of the President, UC chancellors, and the UC system overall. Provost Newman will serve as the Executive Sponsor of the Council, with support from UCOP and campus offices as needed.

Richard K. Lyons, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at UC Berkeley, will be the inaugural chair of the Council, with Council members appointed by President Drake.

The first meeting of the Council will be held in Summer/Fall 2023. The Council will meet multiple times per quarter, with a final meeting schedule and structure to be determined collectively by Council Chair Lyons and Council members in partnership with UC staff.

Attachment 1: Entrepreneurship Council charge

President's Entrepreneurship Network Council Committee Charge

The core pillars of the mission of the UC system are teaching, research and public service. Underpinning all three of these pillars is a strong commitment to entrepreneurship as a vehicle for dissemination and application of UC-created knowledge. The strength of the support for entrepreneurship comes from size, diversity, and the quality of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. A large, diverse network of accomplished advisors and mentors greatly amplifies a UC campus's ability to license and commercialize ideas, and to promote public value. The commitment to innovation also underscores the long history of the University's contributions to California's economic growth and diversification. Some of the State's largest and strongest industry sectors have sprung from discoveries made on UC campuses.

To scale and improve the reach and volume of UC's research commercialization and entrepreneurship activities, a committee should be formed to promote best practices in innovation, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and inclusion across the system along with developing mentorships with expert advisors. The proposal is to create the ***President's Entrepreneurship Network Council***. The Council's focus will be to accelerate, optimize, and bolster entrepreneurial activities at all campuses by significantly expanding the entrepreneur-mentor network; help to augment the availability of experts to act as mentors to faculty and graduate student and undergraduate innovators on our campuses; advocate for resources to support early-stage efforts in commercialization of new technologies and inventions; and support inter-campus innovation networks. The Council will also endeavor to ensure that each UC location -- the campuses, medical centers, national laboratories, and the division of Agriculture and Natural Resources -- have the support and resources necessary to cultivate and sustain an ecosystem of innovation. The Council will be convened by President Drake and will be advisory to him and the chancellors.

Objectives

The objectives of the Council are multiple, but all directed at strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem at every UC campus to ensure access to resources to help support the development and ultimate commercialization of their ideas. Specific objectives fall in three broad areas:

Creating and sustaining an innovation ecosystem at every campus and, where appropriate, between them:

- Supporting campus-level innovation ecosystems to become more inclusive of entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups;
- Facilitating inter-campus applied research partnerships, particularly when their complementary strengths increase opportunities for innovation (e.g., between our medical schools and engineering programs, etc.);
- Curating a repository of resources, including webinars, taped seminars, white papers, and other documents, which can be accessed by all the campuses;
- Developing sectoral strategies and external networks that will support innovation in domains (and geographies) where additional investment of time, attention, and resources would help to accelerate discovery and application of new technologies;

- Highlighting financing opportunities and other resources to support the development of applied research, business plans, and market studies; and
- Facilitating access to advice from subject matter experts across diverse fields.

Supporting faculty and other researchers in their entrepreneurial initiatives

- Creating mentorship opportunities, both formal and informal, between Council members, their affiliates, and campus entrepreneurs from any discipline;
- Exploring, and where appropriate, facilitating linkages between mentors at the national laboratories and campus entrepreneurs;
- Supporting and scaling corporate innovation, corporate partnerships, and industry alliances; and
- Identifying partners/mentors to support those entrepreneurs in the non-STEM fields.

Advocating for resources to support innovation and entrepreneurship

- Tracking and advising on the climate-related research and innovation activities enabled by the State’s investment of \$85 million on the Merced, Riverside and Santa Cruz campuses;
- Evaluating the success of Proof-of-Concept funds at all the campuses;
- Developing additional opportunities for investment in early-stage commercialization; and
- Serving as UC brand ambassadors in venture capital and startup communities.

Council Membership

The Council will be chaired by a campus innovation leader and will rotate every two years. In addition to campus participation, the Council will also include external economic advisors that cover a diverse array of industries and experiences. The economic advisors will be asked to identify high potential entrepreneur-mentors to form the inaugural network and be assigned to a specific campus. The innovation advisors may additionally act as entrepreneur-mentors at their discretion.

The Council will consist of the following members:

- Campus Innovation Leaders (4), one serving as Chair;
- External Economic Advisors (4), which could include a Regent;
- Provost and Executive Vice President.

The Council will be staffed by the Office of Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship, with additional support from campus innovation offices, UC Legal, UC Finance, Information and Technology Services, and other divisions and departments, as needed.

Meetings and Format

The Council will meet regularly and will collectively decide how many of the meetings will be held in-person, how many will be held remotely, and additional activities to connect campuses with mentors. The in-person Council meetings will be held at the UC campuses with more nascent activity to highlight their developments and support their growth.

The format for the in-person meetings will evolve as the Council members determine where their support is most beneficial and valuable. Some of the elements that could be featured include:

- Best-Idea Roundtables: Pitches from campus leaders about the idea they feel could best add value on other campuses;
- A focus on one or two industry sectors that are strong or growing in the region;
- Networking opportunities with campus personnel, local political and industry officials, and leaders/faculty from nearby California State University and community college campuses;
- Activities to foster the development or enhancement of an entrepreneurial ecosystem on the host campus, including meetings with entrepreneurs and investors; and
- Poster sessions to feature other research that may prove eligible for innovation transfer.

The expectation is that these in-person meetings will foster dialogue and relationships that can lead to formal and informal mentorships that will further support innovation and technology transfer.

Virtual meetings will focus more fully on systemwide reports on overall progress on policy issues, infrastructure support for entrepreneurial activity, and other funding ideas and activities. The chair and other members will meet with the President at least annually, but more often as there are developments that (s)he should be made aware of.

The scope described here is deliberately broad, and we intend the Council to have a sharp focus on deliverables. Thus, the Council, led by the chair, will decide on three key initiatives that the Council will achieve during its first two years.