



March 19, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

February 17 marked a historic day for our university: the announcement of the first three recipients of Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships, renowned scholars bridging disciplines in the pursuit of solving some of our world's most complex problems. Each with a body of work that cuts across specialties and facilitates cross-disciplinary discovery, our first Bloomberg Distinguished Professors—our two very own Nobel laureates, Peter Agre and Carol Greider; and Kathryn Edin, who joined us from Harvard University this past August—personify the vision behind alumnus Michael Bloomberg's extraordinary investment in our university.

As you know, through the profound generosity of the then New York mayor, Johns Hopkins established 50 new faculty chairs that form the cornerstone of an ambitious effort to advance cross-disciplinary scholarship across the university. The Bloomberg Distinguished Professors will be a cadre of world-class faculty whose excellence in research, teaching, and service will be centered in cross-disciplinary scholarship. Each will have appointments in at least two units of the university, generally spanning schools or divisions, including academic centers reporting directly to the provost. (In exceptional cases, BDPs may be appointed in two or more departments within a single school.) Together they will strongly advance the university's commitment to cross-disciplinary scholarship, particularly in the areas defined by our five Signature Initiatives: the American City, Global Health, Individualized Health, the Science of Learning, and Water. In addition, all BDPs will teach undergraduate as well as graduate students.

Roughly 10 BDPs will be appointed each year, for a period of five years, from nominations submitted by colleagues around the university. The process began in spring 2013, when President Ron Daniels and Interim Provost Jon Bagger approved 12 of the 20 BDP proposals submitted. In fall 2013, President Daniels and I approved another 12 proposals from 24 submissions, and I am pleased to report that each of our active searches is making significant progress and already reflecting the collaborative spirit intended by Mayor Bloomberg's gift.

Now it is time to conduct our spring round of submissions.

The deadline for these submissions is April 15. Proposals should come to the Office of the Provost from deans or academic center directors in consultation with department chairs, directors of the Signature Initiatives, and the university community, and I encourage all faculty members to consider possible proposals.

There are two types of proposals: those that specify individuals whom schools and divisions would like to recruit, and those that identify fields in which we will conduct a global search. In either case, BDPs must be scholars of exceptional distinction, be qualified for a tenured appointment at Johns Hopkins, and possess a record of accomplishment and scholarly achievement that indicates a strong potential for creative leadership crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries. Up to two members of the Johns Hopkins faculty may be appointed BDPs each year.

**Office of the Provost**

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Each proposal should describe the fields spanned by the nominee's work as well as the role the nominee would play in advancing cross-disciplinary initiatives in one of the five Signature Initiatives. Proposals should also indicate the divisions and departments in which the nominee would be appointed, the division of effort between those units, the nominee's proposed undergraduate and graduate teaching responsibilities, and the proposed investment in support of the appointment from divisional funds. Guidelines for submissions are available on the Provost's Office website, [web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/](http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/). Once proposals are received, they will be evaluated by a committee of faculty who will advise on academic merit. Based on the committee's advice and our own evaluations, President Daniels and I will select the proposals that we think have the most potential to advance the university-wide goal of innovative cross-disciplinary excellence.

Thank you for your continued participation in this most exciting program. With the deep engagement and hard work of faculty colleagues around the university, I am confident that the Bloomberg Distinguished Professors will help us enrich our already extraordinary intellectual community and move us toward our goal of building One University.

Sincerely,

Robert Lieberman  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs