August 27, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue to build the Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships program, I am asking for your help in identifying candidates to join this group of world-class faculty members focused on interdisciplinary scholarship. The deadline for proposals—which can either nominate a specific individual or outline criteria for a candidate search—is October 1.

Each of the Bloomberg Distinguished Professors will have appointments in at least two units of the university, which may include schools, divisions or freestanding academic centers (Jhpiego, for example). The professors will focus in particular on the areas defined by our five Signature Initiatives: the American city, global health, individualized health, the science of learning, and water.

Deans and academic center directors may submit proposals to the Office of the Provost in consultation with department chairs, directors of the Signature Initiatives, and the university community. The proposals may specify individuals whom schools and divisions would like to recruit, or identify fields of expertise for a candidate to be located through a global search. Candidates 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.

The Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships program, launched with the profound generosity of then New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, is off to an excellent start. Six renowned scholars have joined the faculty to address complex global issues and teach our undergraduate and graduate students. In total, 26 proposals have been approved and active searches are moving forward to reach our goal of 50 appointments over five years.

Guidelines for submissions are available on the Provost’s Office website, web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/ along with an introduction to our first group of professors. A faculty committee will evaluate the submissions, and President Daniels and I will consider the committee’s advice when we select the proposals with the most potential to advance the university’s goal of innovative cross-disciplinary excellence.

Thank you for your continued participation in this exciting program. With your engagement and efforts, I am confident that the Bloomberg Distinguished Professors will 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