



October 24, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, through the extraordinary vision and generosity of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Johns Hopkins last year established the Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships – fifty new faculty chairs that form the cornerstone of an ambitious effort to advance cross-disciplinary scholarship across the university. The Bloomberg Distinguished Professors (BDPs) will form a cadre of world-class faculty whose excellence in research, teaching, and service will be centered in cross-disciplinary scholarship. The BDPs will all be appointed in at least two units of the university – ordinarily spanning at least two 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 the university's five Signature Initiatives: the American City, Global Health, Individualized Health, the Science of Learning, and Water. In addition, all the BDPs will teach undergraduate as well as graduate students.

Roughly ten BDPs will be allocated each year for a period of five years from nominations submitted by colleagues around the university. The process began last year when President Daniels and Interim Provost Bagger approved twelve BDP proposals from nineteen submissions. Several BDP appointments are now in process (we expect to make several announcements soon) and a number of searches for BDPs are underway around the university.

It is now time to begin the process of selecting this year's round of BDPs. This year there will be two submission deadlines – one in the fall and one in the spring. The deadline for fall submissions this year is November 1. Nominations should come to the Office of the Provost from deans in consultation with department chairs and others, but I encourage all faculty members to consider possible BDP nominations. This is an invitation to think big, to imagine broadly, and to envision new and creative directions for the intellectual life of our university community. We are still near the beginning of the BDP selection process, so don't worry if you don't have a submission immediately; there will be another deadline later this year and the allocation of BDPs will continue for another three years.

BDP nominations can either name specific individuals that schools and divisions would like to recruit or identify fields in which we will conduct a global search. In either case, BDPs must be scholars of exceptional distinction who are qualified for a tenured appointment at Johns Hopkins and who possess a record of accomplishment and scholarly promise that indicate a strong potential for creative leadership that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. Up to two colleagues each year who are already members of the Johns Hopkins faculty may be appointed BDPs, so we also welcome internal nominations.

Each nomination 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 identified signature initiatives. Proposals should also indicate the divisions and departments in which the nominee would be

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appointed; the division of effort between those units; the nominee's proposed teaching responsibilities; and the proposed investment in support of the proposed appointment from divisional funds. Detailed guidelines for submissions are attached and are also available on the Provost's Office website at [web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/](http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/). Once they are received, the BDP proposals will be evaluated by a university-wide faculty committee. Based on the committee's advice and our own evaluation of the proposals, President Daniels and I will select the proposals that we feel 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 C. Lieberman  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs