

Approval of Establishment of a Matrix Center

A proposal to establish a Matrix Center shall be submitted, in writing, concurrently to the Faculty Senate and the Provost, the content and form of which shall be mutually agreed by the Senate and the Provost. The Senate will promptly refer the proposal to an appropriate Committee of the Senate (“the Senate Committee”).

Role of the Faculty Senate

The Senate Committee will promptly review the proposal to determine whether, in its considered judgment, the proposed Center meets specified criteria for establishment of a Matrix Center. These criteria shall be:

- Clear evidence that the Center areas of focus are consistent with and supportive of the mission and strategic goals of the University and with societal beneficence.
- A demonstrable programmatic need for coalescence of at least two established academic disciplines from at least two colleges or schools possibly with one or more emerging disciplines.
- A multidisciplinary plan or portfolio of research that demonstrates high scholarly potential and is innovative.
- An expectation that the focus of the Multidisciplinary Center will grow and continue to be relevant.
- Identification of external funds adequate to enable the Center to be financially self-supporting.

The Senate Committee shall render a judgment as to whether a proposed Center meets these criteria and convey a written report containing its assessment to the Senate Executive Council, with a copy to the Provost. The Senate Executive Council will promptly refer the report of the Senate Committee, with a recommendation as to acceptance of the report, to the full Senate for action.

The action of the Senate shall be promptly conveyed in writing to the Provost. If, after a Center has been deemed to meet the criteria for a Matrix Center, a new curricular program is envisaged, customary institutional policies and Senate protocols shall apply for its review and approval.

Role of the Provost

The Provost shall render a final decision on whether to approve establishment of the proposed Matrix Center, based upon the above-stated criteria and with due consideration of the Senate action. If, after approval as a matrix center, a center proposes to add a new curriculum, academic program, or service endeavor, customary institutional policies and protocols shall apply to review and approval of such endeavor. The Provost will forward his or her decision to the President who, provided that he or she agrees, will bring it to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Specifications for Operation of a Matrix Center

A Matrix Center shall be administered by a Director who reports to the Provost, or his or her designee, and a board of the Deans of involved Colleges or Schools, which shall be advisory to the Provost.

To commence operations, a Center must have external funds dedicated and currently available for its use, whether in the form of grants or philanthropy, such funds being adequate to enable the Center to be financially self-supporting. If the proposal seeks transitional start-up or secondary support from the General Fund, it must also contain a General Fund commitment approved by the Provost in writing, the commitment to encompass the nature, extent, and duration of such support.

Faculty affiliated with the Center shall hold primary appointments in academic departments or Schools, and secondary appointments in the Matrix Center. Faculty compensation, start-up packages, operational costs, space assignments, and teaching and service expectations will be negotiated and shared between the department and the Center, and these arrangements recorded in an MOU. Tenure, if awarded, will be only in the primary department and not in the Center. The terms and conditions of Matrix Center appointments, reappointments, and evaluation, shall be consistent with applicable provisions of the *Officers' Handbook* or its successor manuals or collective bargaining agreements, including any provisions specially adopted through customary channels to address Matrix Center appointments, reappointments, and evaluation.

Each Matrix Center shall be evaluated for performance at five-year intervals by an appropriate Committee of the Faculty Senate. In addition, the Senate or the Provost may initiate review of a Matrix Center prior to expiration of a five-year interval if there is compelling evidence that a criterion for establishment of a Matrix Center is not being met on a sustained basis. The review may result in the following actions by the Provost, with the advice of the Senate rendered pursuant to the same protocol as applies to establishment of a Center: (i) continuation of the Center; (ii) continuation of the Center upon stated conditions; or (iii) dis-establishment of the Center. In the event of dis-establishment of a Center, the Provost shall generate and implement a plan, in consultation with the advisory board of deans and with an appropriate Committee of the Faculty Senate, for the orderly closure of the Center in a manner consistent with grant and contract commitments.