



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

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Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the 2010-2011 call for cluster hire proposals.

Last year, the Office of the Provost called for proposals for cluster hires in specific areas—namely, water sustainability, public humanities, and aging. This year, the call is open with respect to area. Interested faculty members are encouraged to prepare proposals with the following general principles in mind:

- Clusters enhance and promote existing or complementary areas of strength or promise in multidisciplinary research, instruction, and public service.
- Clusters address important scientific and/or societal issues.
- Clusters are faculty driven: Proposals emanate from the faculty; searches are run by academic department faculty; and promotion and tenure decisions for cluster faculty originate with academic department faculty.

Proposal Submission Process

We will follow a two-step process this year. The first step, which is open to all faculty members, consists of submitting a one-page single-spaced proposal to Tom Rice (tom-rice@uiowa.edu), the associate provost for faculty, by January 31, 2011. This proposal will:

- articulate the purpose of the cluster and how it advances the UI strategic plan in the areas of research, instruction, and public service;
- identify UI faculty leadership for the cluster and current UI faculty who will participate in the cluster; and
- specify the number, the academic unit home, and the research and instructional focus of the new faculty to be hired into the cluster.

Proposals may specify any number of new faculty up to 10; small clusters are welcome. Half of the lines will be funded in part by the Office of the Provost and half by collegiate matches.

These one-page, first-step proposals do not require a statement of support from DEOs and deans.

No later than February 25, 2011, the Office of the Provost—in consultation with the Council of Deans and the Office of the Vice President for Research—will invite the authors of a small number of the one-page proposals to submit expanded proposals that include the prospects for generating external funding, the vision for the cluster in five years, and the metrics that will be used to measure the cluster's success. These expanded proposals will be due to Tom Rice by April 4 and they will again be reviewed by the Office of the Provost, the Council of Deans, and the Office of the Vice President for Research. It is anticipated that winning proposals will be announced no later than the end of the spring semester.

I look forward to reading your proposals!

P. Barry Butler
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost