

Draft Policy on Establishment and Continuation of Academic Centers and Institutes - Available for Comment

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Dear colleagues,

A draft revision of the new *Policy on Establishment and Continuation of Academic Centers and Institutes* will be deliberated by the Council of Academic Deans and Directors (CADD) at its December 2021 meeting. Accordingly, CADD members request input from all interested faculty in advance of their review. The draft revision is [linked from the Policies page of the Provost's Office website](#). I invite you to review this draft and provide feedback via a [Qualtrics Feedback Form](#). **The deadline for responses is Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at Noon.**

This policy will serve as a formal, provost-level policy on the definition and establishment of “centers” and “institutes” within the Division of Academic Affairs. I note that the *Faculty Manual* does not define “centers” or “institutes.” This policy will guide the revision of the *Manual* provision on “Members of Centers and Institutes” (Sec. III.B.3.).

This new policy governs all academic units (as defined therein) under the purview of the provost, at all locations and campuses (including the Madrid Campus). Academic units under the purview of the vice president for medical affairs are excluded. It will apply to all currently existing centers and institutes within the provost's purview with regard to the ongoing responsibilities, reports, and evaluations it describes. I will establish a graduated initial rollout for existing centers and institutes to perform their five-year evaluation.

To prepare this draft, a committee with the following membership held six lengthy meetings between late March – September 2021, worked offline, and engaged in extensive email communication.

- Provost's Office Representatives: Miriam Joseph (Chair) and Steve Sanchez
- Research Office Representative: Matthew Christian
- Faculty Appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee:
 - Hadi Alhorr (CSB)
 - Keon Gilbert (CPHSJ)
 - Yvette Liebesman (Law)

In undertaking its work, the committee reviewed similar policies in place at other institutions and took under advisement the March 2019 report of the SLU Faculty Senate *Ad Hoc* Committee on Policy Concerning Donor Influence Over Academic Matters. I want to emphasize, however, that much of the latter document does not pertain to the focus of this policy document.

CADD members, including the deans, had an opportunity to provide initial feedback on earlier versions of this draft. Following review of all feedback provided during this public comment period, the revision will be submitted for approval, first to CADD and then to me, with the goal of a January 1, 2022 implementation.

I thank the committee for its thoughtful work on this new and much-needed policy. The committee and I welcome your insight during this public comment period.

Thank you,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost