**Cluster Faculty Hiring Initiative**

**Request for Proposals (2017/8)**

As part of an overall Strategic Hiring Initiative, the Office of the Provost, in consultation with the Deans, the Office of Faculty Affairs, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and other stakeholders, invites proposals from faculty for a new Cluster Faculty Initiative. In the past two decades, hiring faculty *en masse* into multiple departments / colleges, or “cluster” hiring, has emerged as a practice to successfully bring on board a critical mass of interdisciplinary faculty. Cluster hiring has also been used to address other needs such as fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, launching new initiatives, broadening engagement with the community, and enhancing inclusivity. This initiative will allow us to build upon existing strengths and spawn new areas of scholarship across campus.

For the upcoming 2016/2017 hiring cycle, we will be supporting up to three clusters, one of which has already been identified as a cluster in Health and Health Disparities (a contractual obligation as part of the NIH BUILD grant). Those interested in participating in this cluster can contact Crist Khachikian, AVP of Research and Graduate Studies.

Proposals are being sought to identify a second cluster. The RFP schedule is as follows:

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| **Timeline** |
| RFP Release | March 3, 2016 |
| Deadline for Proposal Submissions | April 20, 2016 |
| Provost’s Council Review of Proposals Due | May 10, 2016 |
| Provost’s Decision | May 20, 2016 |
| Announcement of Cluster(s) Funded | May 23, 2016 |
| Recruitment for the 2017/8 faculty hiring cycle | To begin summer 2016 |

A proposal to this RFP *must* include the following elements:

1. The attached “Cluster Faculty Hiring Initiative Cover Sheet”
2. Cluster Narrative – The narrative *must* address all of the following elements, as described in the attached *Cluster Faculty Initiative* document.
3. CVs (max 2 pages) for each existing CSUN faculty member who will be part of the proposed cluster.
4. A letter of endorsement from the dean of each college involved in the proposed cluster.

All proposals must be submitted, in print form, to the Office of the Provost no later than **5 p.m. on April 20, 2016**. Please use the attached proposal cover page and follow the guidelines in the *Cluster Faculty Initiative* document. Any questions regarding the process or proposal can be addressed to the lead dean, Daisy Lemus in the Office of Faculty Affairs, or Crist Khachikian in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

**Cluster Faculty Hiring Initiative Cover Sheet**

**2017/8**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cluster Coordinator:** |  |
| **Cluster Lead Dean:** |  |
| **Cluster Name:** |  |
| **Cluster Theme** **(50 words or less):** |  |

**Cluster Proposal:** Please refer to the attached Cluster Faculty Initiative document and follow the guidelines under the “Forming and proposing a cluster” heading. The proposal must include all of the following elements:

* 1. Cluster description / rationale.
	2. Position descriptions
	3. Potential impact of cluster on CSUN and the field of inquiry
	4. Cluster coordination
	5. Mentorship / team-building plan
	6. Resource requirements
	7. Expected outcomes
	8. Commitment to ongoing assessment

**Record of Consultation:** Signatures are required from chairs from all departments affected by the cluster. In addition, per the RFP, a letter of endorsement from the dean of each college involved in the proposed cluster is required.

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| **Date:** | **Dept/College:** | **Department Chair** | **Concur (Y/N)** |
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**Approvals**:

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| Cluster Coordinator: |  | Date: |  |
| Lead Dean: |  | Date: |  |
| Provost’s Council: |   | Date: |  |
| Provost: |   | Date: |  |