

Charge to Signature Initiatives Working Groups

Background

During Spring 2018, through broad campus engagement and consensus building, the Signature Initiatives Working Group of the campus Strategic Planning effort articulated six challenge areas for the 21st century society for which UC Berkeley is well poised to make progress towards understanding their causes and implications, and to advance solutions. Reports describing the six Initiatives are available on the Strategic Plan [website](#).

The task of the 2018-19 Signature Initiative Working Groups is to refine and elaborate the themes identified in the original reports and by campus Deans, and to collaboratively develop the next level of detail in terms of “How,” “Who” and “With What resources” Berkeley should pursue these challenges. The Working Groups will be comprised of interdisciplinary groups of (primarily) faculty, representing a cross-section of relevant campus units and disciplines.

Each Working Group will be led by two faculty Co-Chairs, with input from a Deans’ Coordinating Council, the Chancellor’s Cabinet, and University Development (UDAR) leadership. The Working Groups will serve from mid-November 2018 through May 2019. Each will be staffed by a member of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, and supported by one or more development staff.

Working Group Deliverables

Each Working Group is expected to articulate two to four ambitious, large-scale, interdisciplinary solutions to each Signature Initiative area that Berkeley would be well suited to pursue and make measurable progress toward within a decade, given suitable financial support. These solutions, or thematic programs, should build on Berkeley’s existing strengths, but also elaborate areas where strategic changes and/or investment in people, infrastructure, facilities, programs, curriculum and partnerships would accelerate progress and impact. Finally, these outputs should enable a compelling case to be made to the campus’ philanthropic community to garner the resources necessary to advance and accelerate progress.

A recent [Science/Engineering Strategic Plan at Yale](#) (p.28-50) offers a possible descriptive template to organize the 3-5 page write-ups of each of the thematic programs/solutions.

The Working Groups are asked to work with two deadlines in mind:

1. **December 5, 2018** - Provide two to four solutions/thematic programs *in bullet point form*. These will be used to inform the development of a campaign prospectus that will be shared with campus prospects and donors by Marts & Lundy in the first quarter of 2019.
2. **May 15, 2019** - Final high-level plans due. Spring 2019 will include campus engagement to gather feedback to inform and deepen the solutions/thematic program descriptions, in particular to identify crosscutting opportunities, such as shared academic programs and core facilities and enabling infrastructure.

Meetings and Timeline

Due to campus Campaign planning timelines, the Signature Initiatives Working Groups will be asked to convene on an accelerated schedule for November - December 2018. We appreciate members' willingness to be flexible to the extent possible given their priorities.

November - December 2018

Working Groups are asked to meet 2-3 times between November and December to achieve the first deadline [milestone], as determined by the Co-Chairs:

- 1 meeting prior to Thanksgiving (Nov 12 - 21)
- 1-2 meetings after Thanksgiving (Nov 26 - Dec 3)
- Writing session (Dec 3-4) with [page number] concept papers due end of day December 5th.

January - May 2019

Working Groups will reconvene in January 2019, and set their desired meeting schedule.

- Draft plans due March 15, to be followed by a period of campus consultation and input
- Working Groups reconvene as needed in April
- Final plans due May 15

Service

Working Group Co-Chairs and members will receive formal acknowledgement for their service to the campus for their active participation in the Signature Initiative Process.