Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships
Proposal Guidelines
September 2015

Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships will be allocated by the president and provost. In the initial phase of the BDP program, roughly ten new professorships will be established each year — up to a total of fifty — from in AY 2013-14 through AY 2017-18. Subsequently, BDP positions will be reallocated as they become vacant.

During the initial five-year allocation phase, the provost will solicit proposals to be considered twice yearly, with deadlines of November 1 and April 1. The calls for BDP proposals will be advertised to the faculty, deans, and directors. Directors of Signature Initiatives will be encouraged to suggest areas of targeted interest and to collaborate with deans, directors, and other faculty members in the development of BDP proposals.

Proposals for Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships must be made by at least two deans or directors. (This requirement may be waived in the exceptional case of proposals that span two or more diverse departments in a single school.) All proposals require the support of the faculty in each of the proposed home departments as well as the support of the relevant deans or directors.

Proposals may be either for targeted searches in defined areas or for specific individuals. As many as ten Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships — two each year in the initial phase of allocation — may be conferred on candidates who are already members of the Johns Hopkins faculty. In all cases, the proposal should advance a strong case for the importance and impact of the fields spanned by the proposed appointment and the position’s anticipated contribution to the cross-disciplinary scholarship.

All proposals should include the following:

1. A Nomination Form with the names of the divisions and departments that would serve as the nominee’s academic homes as well as the proposed level of effort that would be devoted to each;

2. The teaching responsibilities the BDP would carry in each department;

3. A description of the fields spanned by the search and the anticipated impact of the appointment in advancing cross-disciplinary initiatives that are important to the university (such as the Signature Initiatives) as well as the participating divisions’ strategic plans;
4. A statement explaining how the BDP funds would be used to support the appointment, the investments that deans and/or directors are planning to make in support of the appointment, and anticipated investments in related areas. The statement should include the proposed use of the BDP endowment payout as well as any associated BDP startup funds.

Proposals for thematic searches in specific areas should also include the following:

5. A list of two to five scholars that illustrates the kind of candidate who might be the target of a search in the proposed area. These illustrative profiles should include a brief description of the fields the candidate spans, and evaluation of her/his major contributions, and a recent academic profile.

Proposals for targeted individuals should also include the following:

6. The nominee’s CV;

7. A summary statement of the nominee’s academic profile and history, including her/his major contributions to cross-disciplinary scholarship and teaching;

8. A discussion of the nominee’s record with respect to mentoring, leadership, and collaborative team development.

The president and provost may convene a university-wide faculty committee to advise them on the evaluation of proposals. The president and provost will approve, decline, or defer each proposal or in some cases ask for revisions. If a proposal is accepted, the nominee will be considered for appointment according to the procedures of the appropriate schools or divisions and the provost’s guidelines. If a proposal is deferred, it will be reconsidered a following proposal cycle. If a proposal is declined, it will receive no further consideration. Decisions will be communicated to the respective Deans approximately one month after the submission deadline.