28 November 2017

Portland Bridge Fund Screening Committee

Susana Rivera-Mills  Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Learning Innovation, Chair
Ron Adams        Senior Advisor to the President for Strategic Initiatives
Jennifer Brown   Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
Lisa Templeton   Associate Provost for Extended Campus
Andrew Valls     Associate Professor of Political Science
Scott Ashford    Co-Administrator, Portland Initiative, ex officio
Mitzi Montoya    Co-Administrator, Portland Initiative, ex officio

Dear Colleagues:

I write to request that you serve on the Portland Bridge Fund Screening Committee, chaired by Susana Rivera-Mills, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Learning Innovation. The Provost’s Portland Bridge Fund—with up to $700,000 invested annually beginning FY18 and ending as late as FY23—will be used to facilitate the development of new online educational programs, as well as those needing meeting space to interact with students in the Portland region. I will make decisions regarding the disposition of the funds, with advice from the screening committee and in consultation with the Portland Initiative co-administrators. Members of the committee are expected to represent the very best interests of the University, not advocate for their units.

Scott Ashford and Mitzi Montoya will serve in an ex officio capacity, and also recuse themselves from the consideration of proposals from their own colleges.

Through our strategic efforts in Portland, the people and communities of the metropolitan area will see greater prosperity through full access to Oregon State University’s unique assets including learning opportunities, research and innovation capabilities and partnerships for regional industry, community and economic success. This access will create new sources of revenue, enhance OSU’s brand in the Portland region and garner financial and political support from alumni, friends and public and private leaders.

Toward this vision, OSU will build and expand its broad engagements in the Portland metropolitan area, provide focused leadership and a coordinated effort, and create a hub within the Central Business District. The hub will serve as a one-stop portal and meeting location as well as a location for learner access to online/hybrid and professional development programs. This focused leadership and physical presence will enable colleges to implement strategies for hybrid instructional program delivery, expanded research and innovation partnerships, and deepened industry and community engagement.

Proposal Evaluation
The Portland Bridge Fund Screening Committee will evaluate proposals submitted by academic colleges with consideration of the following:
• Does the proposed program provide the Portland region with access to an OSU signature program?

• Is the proposed program responsive to market demand?

• Does the proposed program fill an unmet need in the Portland region?

• Does the program contribute to economic and/or community success within the Portland region?

• Does the program have a viable execution plan including achieving financial break-even within 3-5 years?

My office will issue a call for proposals in early December 2017, with initial proposals funded in early January.

I appreciate your willingness to accept this assignment.

Sincerely,

Edward Feser
Provost and Executive Vice President