Council Approval

Note: This form is intended to track the progress of a proposal (whether from Academic Affairs or Health Sciences) through the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils.

Proposal: Water Center

This proposal needs to go through:

Undergraduate Council	☐
Graduate Council	X
Both Approvals	☐
Grad Approval/Undergrad Notification	☐

This proposal has been approved by:

Chair of Undergraduate Council _____ Date: _____

Chair of Graduate Council _____ Date: 2/2/17

Once the appropriate signature(s) have been obtained, please forward this completed form to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. *(NOTE: The SVP-AA is the Chief Academic Office for the University of Utah and reports to the Board of Regents in this capacity. When necessary, the CAO will get a signature from the SVP-HSC.)*

Chief Academic Officer _____ Date: 2-7-17

Once the Chief Academic Officer's signature has been obtained, this approval document will be forwarded to the **Office of the Academic Senate**.

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
The Graduate School

Letter of Intent (LOI) to Establish a University of Utah Center, Institute, or Bureau (CIB)

Proposed Center, Institute, or Bureau Name: Water Center

Classification/type of CIB: (check all that apply)

___ Research – conducting research as primary mission and receiving overhead return

___ Multi-Mission and Interdisciplinary Research/Instructional/Training/Service – Some combination of research and training/instruction and/or service as mission

___ National Resource Center – Federal title connected to funding source(s)

___ Centers of Excellence – State or Federal designation tied to funding sources

___ Large State Designated standalone such as Huntsman Cancer Institute and UNI

X Other (Research Only Center-not receiving overhead, Public Service Center, University Resource Center, Intra-department/School/College Resource Centers, Service Re-charge Center

Will the CIB receive federal or state research funds (Y/N) Y

Is this CIB seeking provisional approval (approval for three years when funding or other criteria are pending)? (Y / N) ___

Please provide a brief mission statement or statement of purpose for the proposed CIB:

The Water Center will serve as a catalyzing hub for interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and trans-disciplinary water-focused research activities at the UU to generate new knowledge. The specific objectives are to:

- **Integrate** existing UU strengths in water
- **Facilitiate** new, transformative, interdisciplinary research funding and infrastructure
- **Engage** stakeholders locally, regionally, and globally

Please provide a description of the proposed CIB's organizational structure, including leadership, departmental, inter-departmental, or cross-college affiliations, and any external partners:

The establishment of the Water Center will not require a change in administrative structure. Rather, to emphasize the campus-wide reach, the Water Center will be partnered with the

GCSC, which is a part of the Sustainability Office who reports to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Centers focusing on other specialty areas within the GCSC could emerge in the future, and they will be designed to ensure synergy and effective cooperation.

Please provide a list of funding sources and a plan for sustainability:

The Water Center will initially be supported by leveraging funded staff from the USAID Center for Advanced Studies in Water project and GCSC. Additional funding will be sought from many sources including federal funding agencies such as USAID, NSF, DOD, DOE; governments; and donor community to sustain the center.

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
The Graduate School

Letter of Intent (LOI) Signature Form

The LOI to the cognizant Sr. Vice President (SVP) must be signed by all individuals who will be primarily associated with the CIB, as well as by others within the University who will be substantially impacted by its work (e.g. faculty/staff members, department chairs, academic deans, Associate Vice President for Research (AVPR) and/or other administrators.

Proposed CIB Director: Steven L. Burian Date: 11/30/2016

Proposed CIB Co-Director: Date:

Department Chair: Michael E. Barber Date: 12/1/16

Dean: Richard B. Date: 12/28/16

SVP: R Watkins Date: 1-11-17

CSO: Amy J. Date: 1-11-17
(oversee GCSC)

Utah System of Higher Education
New Administrative Unit Proposal
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request:	**Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC)**
Proposed Effective Date[1]:	**01/01/2017**
Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:	
Proposed Unit Title:	**Water Center**
Sponsoring School, College, or Division:	**Sustainability Office**
Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):	**Sustainability Office**

Proposed Unit Type:

☐	New Administrative Unit
☒	New Center
☐	New Institute
☐	New Bureau
☐	Conditional Three-Year Approval for New Center, Institute, or Bureau

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Please type your first and last name _____ Date:

☐ I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

[1] "Proposed Effective Date" refers to date after Regent approval when new unit is operational or change to unit is published.

New Unit Description - Abbreviated Template

Section I: The Request

Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) requests approval to establish Water Center effective 01/01/2017. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

Section II: Program Proposal

Administrative Unit Description/Rationale

Present a brief description of the unit. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at the action being proposed. Briefly Indicate why a new administrative unit or change to the unit is justified. Are similar units offered elsewhere in the USHE or the State? State how the institution and the USHE benefit from the proposed unit or unit change.

This is a request to form a Water Center at the University of Utah (UU). Water has emerged as a critical area for research, teaching, and service in Utah, across the U.S., and globally. Society is facing challenges to provide access to clean water, manage water in times of scarcity, protect water quality, and restore water environments. Moreover, these challenges are compounded by population growth and migration, climate change, aging infrastructure, and conflict.

It has become increasingly clear over the last decade that these challenges can not be met without integrated research, knowledge development, and application across the range of engineering, social, and scientific disciplines.

Sustainability and resilience of water systems in built and natural contexts requires a multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving and decision analysis. Further, understanding and managing the complex interconnections with other systems (e.g., energy, food, economy, and health) and across scales and locations requires a multi-sector vision and systems thinking. Advances have been made in technological and community-based solutions, but now there is a need to continue these advances while coupling them to policy making and implementation actions. The UU Water Center will provide a critical nexus for stimulating, fostering, and disseminating water-focused research at the UU that addresses local, national, and global challenges.

The goal of the Water Center is to improve lives, support our economy, and sustain communities by fostering collaborative research to address existing and emerging threats to human and environmental needs for water. To accomplish this goal, the UU Water Center will integrate research strengths in three strategic areas to generate new knowledge that will improve society and the natural systems upon which it depends:

1. **Global, Regional, and Local Water Development.** The UU initially committed to creating a Water Center as part of the contract for the USAID-funded U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCASW). Building on this project and initiatives in the University's Global Health program and Office for Global Engagement, the Water Center will strengthen water research efforts in Pakistan and stimulate existing networks into new and expanded efforts for water research in Korea, Ghana, India, China, Ecaudor, Spain, and other countries. Specific research themes --for example, developing integrated management, engineering, policy interventions to

achieve water sustainability --are being developed at the interface of science, engineering, law, education, economics, ecosystem services, and health within the context of sustainable development. Emphasis will be on addressing globally relevant challenges within the unique context of diverse local socioeconomic, political, and environmental systems.

2. **Coupled Hydroclimate, Ecological, and Biogeochemical Processes.** The Water Center will bring together individuals working on water issues (such as drought, climate change, resource management conflicts, etc. confronting people living in semi-arid lands like those found in Utah, the Mountain West, and the western United States) to better develop multidisciplinary and interdiscipliary strategies and solutions. These efforts will include policy, governance, science, engineering, and health; they will also align with the iUTAH-supported research in coupled natural-human water systems to best adapt the recent heavy investment in water research infrastructure (e.g., labs, field stations, computational resources) and find synergy with research centers at Utah State University and Brigham Young University.

3. **Cyberinfrastructure, Informatics, Policy, and Societal Engagement.** The Water Center will extend strengths of the Stegner Center and USPCASW to advance evidence-driven policy development and community engagement through integration of leading water policy and law programs at the UU with state of the art water research in engineering and science. Capitalizing on recent work establishing cyberinfrastructure, data analysis and management methods, and visualization techniques in water, the Center will create synergy with advances at the UU in big data, computer science, sensing technologies, and more to support the development of smart and connected communities. For example, building on the Smart U initiative to introduce new observation sensors and data management technologies from engineering with social media and decision support analyses from social and behavioral sciences.

Across these areas, research into key cross-cutting issues regarding climate change, hazards, risk and vulnerability assessment, sustainability and resilience, safety and security, and systems connections to health, energy, food, transportation, and more will be supported by the GCSC and other entities on campus.

The Water Center will serve as a catalyzing hub for interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and trans-disciplinary water-focused research activities at the UU to generate new knowledge. The specific objectives are to:

1) **Integrate** existing UU strengths in water,
   - in collaboration with GCSC, help facilitate networking among a growing number of faculty and staff involved in water research
   - lead UU initatives to coordinate, expand, and increase utilization of water-related research infrastructure at UU,
   - promote, in collaboration with UU efforts in entrepreneurship and the UU Techonology and Venture Commercialization Office, the advancement of water-related entrepreneurship and technology development,
   - develop synergy among international water-related research acitivities at UU (e.g., Pakistan, Korea, Ecuador, India, Spain, China, Vietnam) to create a global water initiative supporting the

development of strengthened science-engineering-policy interfaces,

2) **Facilitiate** new, transformative, interdisciplinary research funding and infrastructure,
- identify and pursue existing and emerging water research opportunities at the interface of science, engineering, law, and public health,
- help support submission of multi-PI proposals focused on water,
- build and expand the capacity of water sector locally, regionally and globally, and

3) **Engage** stakeholders locally, regionally, and globally,
- serve as a point of contact for stakeholders, government agencies, NGOs, and funding organizations to learn from and engage in water initiatives,
- create a water network at the UU to connect researchers with Utah higher education institutions (e.g., USU, BYU), communities, policy makers, professionals, industry, and others in the water sector to facilitate collaborations, and non-academic input into and discussion of new research questions and initiatives,
- expand the USPCASW Visiting Scholar program to engage a community of international water researchers visiting the UU and provide remote training through international workshops and online education.

This request for a new Water Center has been explored and refined in discussions with numerous programs and individuals involved in water-related research activities at UU, including:

- Deans from Colleges of Engineering, Mines and Earth Sciences, Law, Social and Behavioral Science, Science, Health, and Architecture and Planning
- Michael Hardman, Chief Global Officer, and the Office for Global Engagement
- Amy Wildermuth, Chief Sustainability Officer, and the Sustainability Office
- Juan Carlos Negrette, Director, Global Health, School of Medicine
- Steve Alder, Division Chief, Public Health Program
- The GCSC Executive Committee and all currrent GCSC faculty (114 in all)
- Faculty in six colleges: Architecture and Planning, Engineering, Law, Mines and Earth Science, Science, Social and Behavioral Science

Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact

Explain how the unit is consistent with the institution's Regents-approved mission, roles, and goals. Describe how the existing administrative structures support the proposed unit and identify new organizational structures that may be needed. What changes in faculty and staff will be required?

At present, there is no campus-wide entity at the UU to serve as a nexus for the diverse interests in water. The need for a Water Center at UU is supported by the success and growth of the GCSC. The GCSC has expanded from ~24 faculty from four colleges in 2009 to over 100 faculty from 23 departments and 8 colleges in 2016. The growth of GCSC has been positive for many reasons, including the ability to now marshall initiatives that require massively multi-disciplinary efforts spanning the entire campus. The challenge of this growth, however, has been to organize the many faculty members into discrete areas of interest. The Water Center at UU is designed to fill this need by providing a focal point for water-related research and associated activities and working in concert with GCSC and other entities for broader strategic interdisciplinary connections.

In addition to need, a major impetus for creating the Water Center at this time emerged with recently-funded water-related research projects at the UU, including the USAID-funded USPCASW project, the NSF-funded iUTAH project, and the NSF-funded CI-WATER project. These campus-wide efforts have strengthened existing partnerships and developed new collaborations for development of cyberinfrastructure, modeling tools, observation networks, databases and analysis tools, and stakeholder and community engagement networks locally, nationally, and globally. The timing for the creation of the Water Center also coincides with growing collaborations with Red Butte Garden related to water, growth in sustainability programs at the UU and the Utah Asia Campus, and the recent faculty hires as part of the Transformative Excellence Program in Society, Water, and Climate. These developments and other ongoing efforts will provide a foundation for the Water Center to help advance water-related research initiatives at the UU.

It is important to note entities at the UU have strength in water research, but generally those entities encompass broader research, teaching, and outreach agendas beyond water. The proposed Water Center will provide a brand for water research and associated activities at the UU, building on the USPCASW project and combining with water research, education, and training strengths established by the GCSC and the iUTAH project. Moreover, the Water Center will complement the numerous other water research efforts in Law (Environmental Dispute Resolution Program, Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment), Architecture + Planning (Ecological Planning Center, Metropolitan Research Center), Health Sciences (Global Health), Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rio Mesa Center), Office for Global Engagement, and Sustainability Office. Although interest in water exists among a wide group of faculty at the UU, it is anticipated that a brand in water will attract even greater interest and dedication. And to those outside the University, promote the combined water research efforts on campus and provide a point of contact and reputation.

Water is of great importance in Utah, and it has garnered interest at other institutions of higher learning in the State. For example, Utah State University (USU) has an engineering-focused Water Research Lab developed on an infrastructure investment in hydraulics experiments and computational assets. USU also has supported a campus-wide Water Initiative to foster collaboration and stimulate relationship building among the diverse water interests. Both of these focal points have provided the opportunity to conduct focused research but also to engage a multitude of stakeholders. Brigham Young University (BYU) has had water-centric developments in cyberinfrastructure and modeling, as well as service learning efforts in international water. The Water Center at UU will build on existing alliances between the UU, USU and BYU to further advance water research in the State of Utah.

The establishment of the Water Center will not require a change in administrative structure. Rather, to emphasize the campus-wide reach, the Water Center will be partnered with the GCSC, which is a part of the Sustainability Office who reports to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Centers focusing on other specialty areas within the GCSC could emerge in the future, and they will be designed to ensure synergy and effective cooperation.

Initially, Water Center governance will be provided by a multi-disciplinary Executive Committee comprised of the following individuals:

Name Affiliation Role
Tariq Banuri Professor, Department of Economics, Global Engagement
Brenda Bowen Associate Professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Director of GSGC, GCSC Liaison
Paul Brooks Professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics Research Infrastructure/ Core Facilities
Andrea Brunelle Professor, Department of Geography, Society, Water, Climate
Steve Burian Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, USPCASW Project Director
Robin Craig Professor, College of Law, Water Policy
Diane Pataki Professor, Department of Biology, Biogeochemical Process and Coupled Natural-Human Systems
James VanDerslice Associate Professor, Division of Public Health, Global Health

This group of individuals, and all those that would serve in the future in this capacity, represent a cross section of the water-related research on campus. We anticipate that this group, like other Executive Committees, will provide guidance and make decisions on how the center will move forward with respect to different opportunities and challenges. Although there is no designated leader for the center at this time, the group will help select a leader who will manage the activities of the center.

As indicated, there is a direct interconnection with the GCSC through Director Brenda Bowen, that will facilitate the leveraging and building upon programs created and fostered through the GCSC (which the UU has supported and which has helped lead to the formation of this new Water Center). In addition, all proposed Executive Committee members except one are GCSC Faculty Affiliates, further strengthening the connection with GCSC. The uniqueness of the Water Center is the focus on water as a research brand with new activities in international programs, entrepreneurship and technologies, exchanges and training, and building a water network of stakeholders to advance research at the science-engineering-health-policy interface.

This proposal will indirectly help the UU meet the Governor's call that 66% of Utahns will have a post-secondary degree or certificate by 2020. Degree programs and certificates are not proposed to be part of the Water Center activities, but the research brand will build reputation and strengthen existing programs in water, such as the new Graduate Certificate in Hydrology and Water Resources. In addition, the Water Network proposed to be established will help engage the Utah water community and attract more students to enroll in existing programs.

Finances
What costs or savings are anticipated with the actions proposed? What new facilities or modifications to existing facilities or equipment are needed? Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution. If new funds are required, describe expected sources of funds.
The presence of the Water Center will establish a brand for the UU and an additional area of identified strength in water research in the State of Utah. This brand will be used to support campus-wide efforts to increase enrollment in undergraduate and graduate programs, and to strenghten the quality of graduate students. In particular, the Water Center will serve as the home for the high profile USPCASW project and other international efforts in water, which are currently garnering the UU and the State of Utah substantial positive press attention. A communication plan for the Water Center will be designed in concert with the other entities on campus interested/engaged in water research to promote the broad water-related

activities at the UU.

The physical facilities for the Water Center will initially include office space provided to the USPCASW project in the Colleges of Law and Engineering. Staff support will be provided by the USPCASW project and through collaboration with GCSC staff as appropriate. Initially, additional space and staff support are not requested. Once approved, we will begin efforts to secure additional resources for the Center, including seeking out grants as well as donors for this effort as further described below.

The Water Center will be a Research-Focused Center, not receiving returned overhead. The financing of the Water Center activities will initially be supported by the USAID-funded U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water project, a $10 million, 5-year Cooperative Agreement awarded to the UU by USAID in December 2014. Funds from USPCASW will be leveraged to support the Water Center's activities of network building, fostering interdisciplinary global water research, and external development in the international donor community fitting within the USPCASW mission. Additionally, activities of the Water Center will be co-sponsored by other entities, e.g., GCSC, as much as possible.

The vision for the Water Center is to become a sustainable Center within five years. The sustainability plan will evolve from the multi-pronged approach taken for the USPCASW and iUTAH projects that will seek external grants, development, and contributions from the donor community. It is expected that alignments with the Utah Asia Campus and other international efforts combined with new established national sources of research funding will be the foundation to sustain the Center. We also believe that there are many in the donor community and industry who will be interested in supporting the efforts of such a center and we plan to approach individuals, foundations, and corporations in this area to seek their support. The majority of the funding to sustain the Center, its staff, and its key activities, however, will continue to come from external grants, building on the initial funding from USAID.

Global Change & Sustainability Center
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

257 South 1400 East, 522 ASB
Salt Lake City UT 84112-0840
Phone: (801) 581-6414 Fax (801) 581-4665
environment.utah.edu

October 26, 2016

Dear Senior Vice President Watkins,

I am writing to confirm my support for the creation of a new Water Center at the University of Utah as is described in this proposal. Interdisciplinary water research has emerged one of the unique strengths of the University of Utah, with dozens of faculty from all across campus leading active water related research programs from all disciplinary perspectives. This proposal builds from the achievements of the interdisciplinary community that has been actively engaged with the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC), and will help to facilitate future focused efforts around water related funding opportunities. This new Water Center builds on several successful externally funded research programs that are linked to the GCSC, including the USAID project (~$10M) led by GCSC Associate Director, Steve Burian and iUTAH (~$20M) led by GCSC founding Director Jim Ehleringer. This effort also builds on the successful Water, Society, and Climate Transformative Excellence Program cluster hire, and will help to create a community for these exceptional interdisciplinary scholars to collaborate. Water is one of the key areas where GCSC faculty have collaborated, yet the lack of a cohesive framework linking these faculty and representing this strength to the outside world, has led to missed funding opportunities. The creation of this new Water Center will give new cohesion to water research efforts, and the GCSC is enthusiastic about the proposed structure of housing the new Center within the GCSC. We anticipate that this will become one of three sub-centers within the GCSC that focus on campus research expertise, momentum, and opportunity. The Water Center proposal was crafted by multiple faculty affiliates of the GCSC from several different departments and colleges, and fits well within the mission and scope of the GCSC. This new Center will raise our state, national, and global profile as a leader in interdisciplinary water research.

Thank you,

Dr. Brenda B. Bowen

Director, Global Change and Sustainability Center
Associate Professor, Geology and Geophysics
University of Utah
brenda.bowen@utah.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

ROBERT W. ADLER
Jefferson B. and Rita E. Fordham Presidential Dean
University Distinguished Professor of Law

Telephone: (801) 581-6571
Facsimile: (801) 585-0077
Robert.Adler@law.utah.edu

November 8, 2016

Ruth V. Watkins
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
205 Park Building
University of Utah

Dear Senior Vice President Watkins,

I am writing to express my support for the creation of a new Water Center within the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) at the University of Utah. I also consulted with both the Acting Director (Professor Robin Craig) and permanent Director (Professor Bob Keiter) of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment here at the College of Law, and they share my support for the new proposed Water Center. Professor Craig is also listed as one of the Executive Committee members for the proposed center.

This Center will help to establish a structure for water-related research at the University of Utah. Water law and policy has long been a significant focus of research and teaching at the law school, and the new center will help to increase the opportunities for faculty members in the College of Law to attract top students and to acquire external research funding. It will also stimulate the creation of water research ideas among faculty members and potentially students in my college that align with broader research themes within the interdisciplinary Global Change and Sustainability Center and across the University of Utah. Finally, this center will allow us to leverage both ongoing interdisciplinary water research projects and University investments linked to these large projects (iUTAH, U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water, Climate Water and Society TEP).

It makes sense to house this interdisciplinary center within the GCSC, which has a well-established administrative support structure as well as the tools to connect those in the College of Law and other colleges on campus to broader interdisciplinary research opportunities at the university.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Adler

College of Humanities
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

November 8, 2016

Dear Senior Vice President Watkins,

I am writing to confirm my support for the creation of a new Water Center within the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) at the University of Utah. The creation of this Center will establish a locus for cross-disciplinary engagement focusing on what is surely one of the most pressing of the grand challenges we currently face in Utah, throughout the Intermountain West, in the nation, and throughout the world. Indeed, many scholars who study environmental change believe that access to fresh water—not religious conflict, economic inequality, or political ideology—will be the definitive factor that determines the health of our planet and humankind over the next fifty years.

Although the College of Humanities may not seem to be one of the primary umbrellas for water-related research, we in fact house many research-active faculty across multiple departments whose scholarship and expertise relates to questions about the environment, sustainability, climate change, and water. Our environmental historians, eco-critics, and environmental communication faculty will find this Center to be of great importance to their future productivity, and it will surely find many interested students across the college and particularly with those pursuing an Environmental Humanities major or emphasis. Establishing such a Center will help support cross-disciplinary collaboration by making it much easier for scholars with similar or overlapping research interests to find each other, and by creating an apparatus that can support new forms of externally funded research.

Thus, I support this new Center and particularly appreciate that it will be housed within the GCSC. This makes good sense not only because the GCSC has a well-established administrative support structure but also because the GCSC has the tools to connect those in my College to broader interdisciplinary research opportunities at the university.

Sincerely,

Dianne Harris, Dean
Professor, Department of History
dianne.harris@utah.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Richard B. Brown
Dean of Engineering
1692 Warnock Engineering Building
72 S. Central Campus Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
PH: (801) 585-7498 FAX: (801) 581-8692
brown@utah.edu
http://www.coe.utah.edu/~brown

November 5, 2016

Ruth Watkins
Sr. Vice-President for Academic Affairs
The University of Utah

Dear Senior Vice President Watkins,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the proposed Water Center within the Global Change and Sustainability Center at the University of Utah. Because of the way the Center is to be funded from research projects and GCSC funds (and allowing overhead dollars to be distributed as usual), I see no negative effects of having such a center, and I do believe it will raise the visibility of Water research at the U and might help faculty members attract graduate students and compete for funding.

There is a lot of water-related research in the College of Engineering, including the UTAH-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water that involves many of our faculty; MIchael Barber's research on stream-groundwater interaction, climate change implications, and human adaptation; Steve Burian's work on sustainable and resilient urban water systems; Ramesh Goel's study of nutrient dynamics in streams, wetlands and in wastewater treatment plants; Christine Pomeroy's work on urban streams; Jennifer Weidhaas' CAREER Award reseach on detecting waterborne pathogens; and even my own work on water quality sensors, to name just a few.

The University should have a larger public profile in water research, and this center should help with that.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Brown

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Office of the Dean - College of Mines and Earth Sciences
115 South 1460 East, Room 205 Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0102 801-581-8767 FAX 801-581-5560

November 10, 2016

Dr. Ruth V. Watkins
Senior Vice President
205 Park

Dear Senior Vice President Watkins,

I am writing to confirm my support for the creation of a new Water Center within the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) at the University of Utah. The creation of this Center will help to establish a structure for water-related research at the University of Utah that will help to increase the opportunities for faculty members in my college to attract top students and acquire external research funding.

Water resource science and the success and sustainability of GCSC are of strategic importance to the College of Mines and Earth Sciences. As a rather new Dean in the College, I am encouraging and incentivizing collaborative efforts such as this. Consequently, I am personally supportive, as is the entire College, of transciplinary efforts such as this.

First, this new center will focus water research activities through a lens to the outside world that will multiply the impact of individual researchers and increase the impact of our work. It will also stimulate the creation of water research ideas among faculty members in my college that align with broader research themes within the interdisciplinary Global Change and Sustainability Center and across the University of Utah. Finally, this center will allow us to leverage both ongoing interdisciplinary water research projects in my College and University investments linked to these large projects (iUTAH, U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water, Climate Water and Society TEP).

In summary, the College of Mines and Earth Sciences supports this new Center and particularly appreciates that it will be housed within the GCSC. This makes good sense not only because the GCSC has a well-established administrative support structure but also because the GCSC has the tools to connect those in my College to broader interdisciplinary research opportunities at the university.

Sincerely,

Darryl P. Butt, PhD
Dean, College of Mines and Earth Sciences

SUSTAINABILITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

201 S. President's Circle, Room 308, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
www.sustainability.utah.edu

November 3, 2016

Dear Senior Vice President Watkins:

I am writing to confirm my support for the creation of a new Water Center, which will be a center within the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC). As you know, creating this center was a requirement of the grant for the USAID Center for Advanced Studies in Water with our partner institution, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology.

We believe this is a timely moment for us to create this center given the number of water-focused faculty who are doing exciting and innovative work in the area of water. With the addition of outstanding new faculty over the past five years, including as part of the new Society, Water, and Climate cluster, we believe we have both the capacity and skills to compete for large collaborative center grants in the water field. Those grants, however, often take more seriously those who have a structure in place to organize their efforts. As a result, given that we feel we have the personnel in place, we believe this new center is the last piece in ensuring our competitiveness for those water-related opportunities in the future.

We have very carefully thought about the structure of this new center and have endeavored to find a path that would not require new resources or administrative support. To that end, we were able, with the approval of those involved, to place this center within the GCSC, which we believe is a potential model for other centers in the future that are organizing along sustainability themes. In addition, after substantial vetting, it is my understanding that we have the support of the key water-focused faculty, GCSC affiliated faculty, departments, and colleges, all of whom we look forward to continuing to collaborate with on this important endeavor.

Warm regards,

Amy J. Wildermuth
Chief Sustainability Officer