

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

Institution Submitting Request: College of Social and Behavioral Science

Proposed Effective Date¹: 05/01/2018

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:

Proposed Unit Title: NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary EXchange for Utah Science)

Sponsoring School, College, or Division: College of Social and Behavioral Science

Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s): N/A

Proposed Unit Type:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Administrative Unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Bureau |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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.

Cynthia A. Berg

Date: April 4, 2018

☒ 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

College of Social and Behavioral Science requests approval to establish NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary EXchange for Utah Science) effective 05/01/2018. 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 an interdisciplinary research institute, called NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary EXchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. NEXUS is aligned with the University of Utah's mission in research (supporting the goal to develop and transfer new knowledge) as well as to engage communities to improve their quality of life. The U's new NEXUS will create innovative ways of addressing society's grand social challenges. Issues such as homelessness, healthcare, water scarcity, aging and dementia, and immigration require perspectives from politics to medicine, economics to the humanities, and psychology to engineering. NEXUS will provide the space and programming to foster intellectual exchanges that will allow new insights to complex challenges that meet a diverse set of human needs.

At NEXUS, collaborations will be sparked through joint research resources, faculty exchange programs, faculty mentoring programs, interdisciplinary summer workshops, interdisciplinary conferences, and graduate and undergraduate training programs in conjunction with departments. NEXUS provides an environment at the University of Utah for interdisciplinary collaborations that spans departments and colleges, providing training in a wide variety of research methods and innovating new statistics and methods across diverse research fields. NEXUS tackles the most pressing challenges facing our social and natural world and prepares students for identifying the complex solutions that these vexing issues require.

NEXUS will capitalize on the incredible advances the University of Utah has made in the last 5 years in hiring as part of the Transformative Excellence Program (TEP), advanced by Senior Vice President Ruth Watkins. Investments have been made in ten clusters (see <https://academic-affairs.utah.edu/about/transformative-excellence-program/>). The College of Social and Behavioral Science has been part of five transformative research teams that examine how 1) families can promote good health and cope with chronic illnesses (C-FAHR), 2) how water is becoming scarce due to climate change (SWC), 3) neuroscience approaches to aging, 4) the economics and public policies affecting healthcare and 5) how to communicate issues of biodiversity to the public through the Natural History Museum of Utah.

The value of interdisciplinary team science is already coming to fruition. For instance, C-FAHR, <http://www.utah.edu/faculty/c-fahr/>) is now comprised of over 100 faculty members across 7 colleges. C-FAHR completed its hiring in 2016 and holds regular colloquia each

month. This group is co-teaching an interdisciplinary graduate course in Family Health Spring of 2018 to a group of 12 graduate students across 6 different departments (4 different colleges) to prepare for a planned training grant submission in 2018. Further, this group has been approved to teach as part of the prestigious ICPSR statistical training program. SWC completed their hiring in 2017 and has already received a highly competitive National Science Foundation grant (\$1.5M) examining issues of climate change on woodland systems and employment (<http://www.utah.edu/faculty/swc>).

How NEXUS will function:

NEXUS will serve as a catalyst for interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and trans-disciplinary research on 21st century challenges. NEXUS will provide shared resources for researchers and students across campus. Seed programs will help support interest groups and pilot projects on grand challenges of our time. Graduate students will be trained to do crosscutting research that is impactful and inspires human solutions to life's challenges. Undergraduate students will participate in innovative programs (e.g., CSBS's Solutions Scholars program) that prepare them to “be the solution” in their communities. Physical space in the new Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons will allow faculty and students, as well as industry and community partners, to innovate.

NEXUS will leverage our ability to identify, use, and link large datasets to address the grand challenges of today and the future. The University of Utah has truly unparalleled datasets to address challenges from multiple perspectives.

- The Utah Population Data Base, one of the world's richest sources of information on genetics, epidemiology, demography, and public health has identified numerous patterns of genetic inheritance and mutations (e.g., BRCA1) see <https://healthcare.utah.edu/huntsmancancerinstitute/research/updb/>.
- All Payer's Claim Data, containing data from health insurance carriers, Medicaid, and third party administrators allows researchers to address healthcare utilization and cost in an effective way.
- Existing data from state agencies (e.g., Workforce Services, Utah Data Alliance, gis.utah.gov) will be linked together with databases housed at the university such as the U of U's Enterprise Data Warehouse.

The core of NEXUS activity will be located in the new Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons building. This new facility will provide state of the art research and program space. Faculty and graduate students will have shared grants management specialists who will help to identify state and federal grants for research teams. The impact of NEXUS will be far reaching across all colleges at the U. A sampling of the work faculty currently pursue includes:

- Reducing distracted driving and medical errors through better technology design that reduces attentional demands.
- Environmental change and its effects on woodland ecosystems and traditional livelihoods.
- Effects of climate change on water availability around the world and the economic

consequences to communities.

- Lowering the risk of obesity through creating walkable environments, public transportation, and urban planning.
- Family-based management for chronic illnesses including those with diabetes, stroke, back pain and dementia that reduces caregiver burden.
- Interventions to reduce PTSD of veterans to increase their well-being and employability.
- The factors underlying conflict and cooperation as political leaders develop policies.
- Air pollution and its societal and economic burden on health issues.
- Citizen/crowd science engagement using interactive technology.

The idea of a new interdisciplinary institute has been explored within an interdisciplinary taskforce that has been meeting since April of 2017. An invitation went out to deans of all colleges on main campus, major interdisciplinary center directors (e.g., GCSC, Utah Education Policy Center), and the dean of social science at Utah State University, with meetings occurring throughout a 9-month period. This interdisciplinary task force read several articles (e.g., *Nature's* special issue on interdisciplinarity) regarding the state of interdisciplinary science in the US and around the world. The group explored a number of different models for interdisciplinary institutes that tackle 21st century problems across the country. Further, Dean Cindy Berg was asked by SVPAA Ruth Watkins to present the idea of an interdisciplinary research institute at the Council of Academic Dean's retreat in September of 2017. Thus, the idea of NEXUS has been vetted extensively among those in the university community.

As a result of these meetings, a collaboration among nine deans and directors (Deans of Architecture and Planning, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, GCSC, Humanities, Mines and Earth Sciences, Social and Behavioral Science, Social Work, and Director of Natural History Museum) was formed. This group partnered with the SVPAA and the VP-Research's office to fund new grants development managers who will foster research proposals at the interdisciplinary interface.

Several letters of support are included in the appendix to this proposal.

Note that the institute will not offer any courses, degrees, or certificate programs.

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?

The grand challenges of our times require complex, sophisticated methods and theories from a broad array of disciplines. The traditional structure of university departments and colleges is not conducive to doing cooperative and interdisciplinary work. Other top R1 (especially highest research activity) institutions have such an institute frequently occurring under the

umbrella of a Social Science Research Institute (SSRI). Such institutes catalyze interdisciplinary research, provide training for faculty and students to conduct interdisciplinary research, and provide tools for researchers to submit interdisciplinary grants. Some of the largest and most successful institutes include University of Michigan's Institute of Social Research (<http://home.isr.umich.edu/>), Penn State's SSRI (<http://ssri.psu.edu/>), and Duke's SSRI (<https://ssri.duke.edu/>). Dean Berg and Associate Dean Forster consulted with Directors at each of these centers in addition to newly developed centers at UC-Davis (<http://ucd-advance.ucdavis.edu/ssri>), MATRIX at the University of CA at Berkeley (<http://matrix.berkeley.edu/>), and Stanford's Interdisciplinary Superinstitutes (<https://interdisciplinary.stanford.edu/>). Dean Berg visited MATRIX and both she and SPVAA Watkins consulted with leaders at MATRIX. NEXUS has been modeled after MATRIX. The advice from all institute directors has been to create structures that are nimble and can adapt to the changing nature of scientific inquiry and funding priorities.

At the present time, there is no campus-wide entity at the University of Utah to catalyze interdisciplinary research to address human solutions to the grand challenges of our time as there are on other campuses across the country. Currently, the University of Utah has 133 centers (see <https://centers.utah.edu/index.php/centers-institutes-and-bureaus/>), with some centers serving this interdisciplinary catalyzing function in specific content areas such as sustainability (Global Change and Sustainability Center) and aging (Center on Aging).

A goal of NEXUS will be to facilitate connections among existing centers to address the grand human challenges. For instance, discussions within the taskforce have already revealed several connections that faculty may have to existing centers such as the Social Research Institute (housed in the College of Social Work), Utah Education Policy Center, National Center for Veterans Studies, and GCSC.

Such discussions are essential as federal funding priorities are increasingly at the interface of disciplines. For instance, NSF and NIH both have programs with an interdisciplinary focus. Large foundations such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have programs (e.g., Interdisciplinary Research Leaders) that foster interdisciplinary research at the interface of researchers and community leaders. Further, NEXUS will provide interdisciplinary training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Such training in team science is being recognized currently as an essential component of research at the national level (see the National Cancer Center's initiative in teams science <https://teams sciencetoolkit.cancer.gov/Public/Home.aspx>).

The need for NEXUS is clear as the TEPs have completed hiring and are maturing. Some TEPs (e.g., C-FAHR and SWC) have entered discussions as to whether they should seek center status and build the infrastructure needed to facilitate future research and graduate student training with the TEPs. However, the realities of supporting infrastructure for each TEP quickly exhaust resources. By providing central programming resources, we feel that the TEPs will mature more quickly and the success of center and training grant proposals will be enhanced that cross-cut colleges. Prior center proposals (e.g., The Utah Demography Research Network as a Population Center) received feedback that a weakness was the lack of an institute that can provide dedicated space and resources available to support such centers.

The TEP initiative at the University of Utah has been instrumental in fostering numerous discussions about interest groups and potential research teams that have yet to be realized as TEPs. For instance, proposals have been developed or are in development on topics such as immigration and refugees, human factors, income inequality, air quality and health. NEXUS will provide mechanisms for these topics to be explored through low-cost seed programs that allow interest groups to explore whether they have the skills and interest to develop into research teams.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The presence of NEXUS will foster the reputation of the University of Utah as a place where grand challenges are addressed through an interdisciplinary lens. This mission is at the core of the College of Social and Behavioral Science's strategic plan and is consistent with the mission of numerous other colleges on campus. These grand challenges will be examined locally in our Utah community, nationally, and in places throughout the world.

NEXUS will be governed by two different boards. First, a university steering committee will be comprised of the director of NEXUS (yet to be named), research deans of participating colleges (CSBS, Architecture and Planning, College of Social Work, College of Education, College of Law, etc.), and a graduate and undergraduate student representative selected from nominations. Initially, NEXUS will be governed by an interdisciplinary Executive Committee comprised of the following individuals, until a steering committee can be named.

Name Affiliation

Rick Forster Associate Dean, CSBS

Brenda Bowen Director of GCSC

Jake Jensen Associate Dean, College of Humanities

Andrea Rorrer Associate Dean for Faculty Research, College of Education

Ryan Smith Associate Dean for Research, College of Architecture and Planning

An advisory board will be comprised of the director together with community and industry leaders together with university leadership (VP Research, Dean CSBS).

Physical facilities for NEXUS will include numerous spaces in the Gardner Commons Building (see below). Additional facilities include space in the Sorenson Arts and Education Complex (SAEC, College of Education) where the Office of Research Development is located. As the Vice President for Research's office expands core facilities across main campus, these facilities could be linked to NEXUS so as to maximize resources available to interdisciplinary oriented researchers.

Physical Resources of NEXUS in Gardner Commons

1. John Short NEXUS Core

The John Short NEXUS Core will include team rooms for project coordinators and teams that need space for specific projects. Three conference rooms (12 seats each) will be fully wired for conference utilities and innovation. Touchdown space for three grants management specialists will be available so that these specialists can work with teams to provide team consulting for external grant preparation.

2. One of only 29 Federal Secure Data Centers in the U.S.

A proposal is under review at NSF for a Census Research Data Center (RDC). This center allows researchers access to restricted-use data from the Census and other governmental agencies. If funded, the RDC would provide qualified researchers a space to conduct approved research using non-public data collected by Census and other agencies. Such data is only available now to Utah researchers by traveling to a secure data center (with the closest facility currently located at University of Colorado-Boulder). This center would provide access to research funding not previously possible at the University of Utah and would be a resource available to all faculty at institutions throughout the state as well as state researchers.

3. Behavioral Economics Laboratory

This lab will provide students and faculty the opportunity to examine economic decisions informed by the complexities of human decision making that encompass both rational, as well as emotional decision making. The laboratory facility will foster not only research in behavioral economics, it will also be a hub for research and teaching efforts in an array of disciplines such as economics, psychology, political science, sociology, family and consumer studies, anthropology, finance and management across multiple colleges.

4. Political Science Experimental Laboratory

Political science faculty and students will be able to design and create experiments never before possible at the University of Utah. Survey methodologies can be piloted on locally relevant population samples (e.g., immigrants, refugees), before being used in the field. For instance, researchers examining trust between individuals of different countries can engage in group hypothetical conflicts to generate pilot data prior to large-scale field work on these topics.

5. Focus Group Room

A state-of-the-art room will be available for researchers across the University to conduct focus groups that are common in social science research, as well as medically oriented research. The room will be equipped with one-way glass connecting to an observation booth where students can be trained in focus group methodologies. It will also feature high quality audio and video capability and will be available for web-conferencing.

6. Large Conference Space

Two large auditoriums are available in the Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons Building that can be used for forums hosted by NEXUS.

Resources available to NEXUS

DIGIT LAB

The DIGIT lab provides Geographical Information Systems (GIS) infrastructure for both geographic information analysis and application development. GIS is actively involved in projects with both local (e.g., Salt Lake Cooperative County Plan) and national (National Park Service-National Trails Intermountain Region) ties and has secured millions of dollars in local city, state, and national contracts.

Metrics

Measures of NEXUS' success will include: number of faculty and student affiliates, federal and state grants submitted, community projects initiated, and white papers and publications submitted. Social Science Research Institutes report a high return on investment in terms of the ratio of seed funding to external funding initiatives. CSBS initiated an interdisciplinary research pilot program for the past two years, funding 22 teams with 15 different departments outside of the college. The 2015 cohort has thus far submitted \$3.6M in proposals and have been awarded \$1.9M in external funding based on an investment of \$100k in seed grants. CSBS has also lead two Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) which have fostered interdisciplinary external funding by bringing together faculty already on campus with newly hired faculty working on common themes. The four faculty members hired and on campus in the Society Water and Climate TEP team has submitted \$10.1 M in proposals and has been awarded \$1.2M. The four faculty hired as part of the Consortium for Families and Health Research (C-FAHR) TEP team has submitted \$8.2M in proposals and has been awarded \$251,000.

For Conditional Approval of New Centers, Bureaus, and Institute's ONLY

Explain how proposed change is fully supported by external funding.

We will be requesting some additional seed funding for the center through our normal budgeting process, in consultation with President Watkins.

Explain how the proposed change requires only a modest effort in terms of staff and space needs with normally no permanent staff or permanent facility assignment. Explain how the entity is already affiliated with an existing academic program or department.

As noted above, NEXUS utilizes the new facilities available in the Gardner Commons Building.

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.

NEXUS will begin as a provisional Center, receiving no returned overhead. The financing of NEXUS will be supported by a gift from the Miller Foundation for \$250,000 for programming,

together with a \$1 million gift from the John Short and Mary Wilkes Foundation for the core facility in the Gardner Building. The John Short and Mary Wilkes Foundation has agreed to partner with NEXUS in fundraising efforts toward a sustainable endowment for NEXUS. Additionally, activities of NEXUS (e.g., RDC, grants that will provide support for staff) will be leveraged for additional support.

NEXUS will begin as a provisional institute, but will apply for permanent status within three years. A multi-pronged approach toward funding (federal center grants, training grants, donor funding) will be used to sustain the center.



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

Proposed Center, Institute, or Bureau Name: NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary EXchange for Utah Science)

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
- ☐ 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) Y

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

The U's new NEXUS will create innovative ways of addressing society's grand social challenges. At NEXUS, collaborations will be sparked through joint research resources, faculty exchange programs, faculty mentoring programs, and graduate and undergraduate training programs. NEXUS provides an environment at the University of Utah for interdisciplinary collaborations that spans departments and colleges, providing training in a wide variety of research methods and innovating new statistics and methods across diverse research fields. NEXUS tackles the most pressing challenges facing our social and natural world and prepares students for solutions that represent the complexity that is required for these solutions.

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

NEXUS will be governed by two different boards. First, a university steering committee will be comprised of the director of NEXUS (yet to be named), research deans of participating colleges (CSBS, Architecture and Planning, College of Social Work, College of Education, College of Law, etc.), and a graduate and undergraduate student representative selected from nominations. Initially, NEXUS would be governed by an interdisciplinary Executive Committee comprised of the following individuals, until a steering committee can be named.

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

NEXUS will begin as a provisional Center, receiving no returned overhead. The financing of NEXUS will be supported by a gift from the Miller Foundation for \$250,000 for programming, together with a \$1 million gift from the John Short and Mary Wilkes Foundation for the core facility in the Gardner Building. The John Short and Mary Wilkes Foundation has agreed to partner with NEXUS in fundraising efforts toward a sustainable endowment for NEXUS. Additionally, activities of NEXUS (e.g., RDC, grants that will provide support for staff) will be leveraged for additional support. NEXUS will begin as a provisional institute, but will apply for permanent status within three years. A multi-pronged approach toward funding (federal center grants, training grants, donor funding) will be used to sustain the center.



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.

Rick Forster

3-14-18

Proposed CIB Director:



Date:

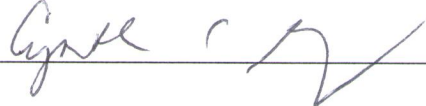
Proposed CIB Co-Director:

Date:

Department Chair:

Date:

Cynthia Berg
Dean:



3-14-18

Date:

SVP:

W. W. Walton

Date:

3-16-18



VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

March 27, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide my support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. In my capacity as VP for Research I have held research luncheons where we have explored the connections among colleges across both health sciences and main campus. This institute will provide greater opportunities for scholars to further this exploration regarding society's grand challenges and devise solutions from a variety of different methods and disciplines.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. From the discussions that this group has had over the past year, a group of nine deans are sharing the cost together with the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate development and submission of interdisciplinary grants. These research managers are hired from my office and this team will work directly with NEXUS faculty to foster greater synergies across units.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. Both NSF and NIH have extensive portfolios with respect to interdisciplinary research on grand challenges as do major foundations such as Sloan and Robert Wood Johnson. Further, NEXUS may provide a way for main campus to connect via core facilities that we are discussing may need to be developed on main campus that complement what is already available on the health sciences campus. Facilities such as the secure data center (if funded), will provide opportunities for investigators across campus as well as other research institutions within the state and city and state government.

I support the formation of NEXUS and look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Weyrich, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Professor of Internal Medicine
H.A. & Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chair

April 2, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah
332 South 1400 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

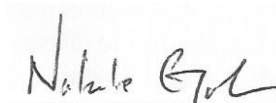
Dear Dean Berg,

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS ((iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. In our conversations over the past few years, we have spoken about the value it will have for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and fostering interdisciplinary research with others across campus, including the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.

I value our ongoing partnership with CSBS and see NEXUS as complementary to the work we are doing to support public policy decision making. NEXUS provides us another opportunity to build our connections with CSBS faculty and others from across campus who do research in demographics, economics, and public policy. Our work will benefit through the sharing of methodologies, data, and research outcomes with those in NEXUS. I hope that the data and research from the Gardner Policy Institute will be a helpful resource to NEXUS as well. I also believe there will be opportunities for joint grant applications and collaborative research projects and new opportunities for students to engage in research to be better prepared for the workplace.

I fully support the formation of NEXUS as a provisional institute and look forward to interacting with this interdisciplinary institute. Please contact me if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,



Natalie Gochnour
Associate Dean, David Eccles School of Business
Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

April 02, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

We are writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. We have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Our group viewed such an institute as providing greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, my unit is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit, similar to the value we have received and co-created through the GCSC by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah focused on social science research.

We are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. Associate Dean for Research + Community Engagement Ryan E. Smith also looks forward to serving on the executive committee in order to get the center established. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan E. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan E. Smith, Associate Professor
Associate Dean for Research + Community Engagement
College of Architecture + Planning, University of Utah



April 3, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

We are writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. We have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Our group viewed such an institute as providing greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, my unit is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

We are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be

an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrea K. Rorrer".

Andrea K. Rorrer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, College of Education

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elaine Clark".

Elaine Clark, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education

April 3, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide support for the provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. We have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the prospects for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that could help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Such an institute has the potential to provide opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, address such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and other new opportunities.

NEXUS can also provide a catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs), and can serve as a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. As a first step in this direction, the College of Engineering, together with the SVPAA office and other units on campus, is sharing the cost of shared research development managers in the new Research Development Office who will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

We support the proposal that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together for NEXUS. We look forward to the ways in which NEXUS can be an important resource to help the university address the grand challenges of today, and in particular, human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,



Eric G. Eddings, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Professor, Chemical Engineering



April 5, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

We are writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. Although our college has only recently been invited to join the efforts of the interdisciplinary research taskforce, we are committed to contributing to the work of addressing our society's most complex challenges by bringing our humanistic and artistic expertise to bear in innovative ways. We agree that an institute such as NEXUS can provide greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges with a variety of different methods and from many disciplinary perspectives, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs)—including our own Arts-in-Health TEP—and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. In addition to the faculty who will be hired as part of our TEP, we are excited about the possible support and opportunities NEXUS could open up for all College of Fine Arts faculty and students, particularly those who are part of the Arts-in-Health Innovation Lab (artsinhealth.utah.edu). In addition, we are eager to add humanistic and artistic inquiry to the range of ways in which NEXUS scholars will address the challenges of the 21st century. As a first step in this direction, the College of Fine Arts is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will be able to connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing initiatives in the College of Fine Arts by connecting them with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

We are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the University and the broader community to find human solutions to today's most vexing challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Scheib'.

John W. Scheib, Dean



April 2, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. I have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. I am very pleased to serve on the executive committee of NEXUS to select a director and the steering committee in my role as Associate Dean of Research of the College of Humanities. I view such an institute as providing greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, my unit is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. I can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Humanities will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. Notably, NEXUS provides an infrastructure for growing and expanding our research programs in digital research, human-drone interactions, and visual communication. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

I am delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. I look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

Jakob D. Jensen
Associate Dean for Research, College of Humanities

March 27, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

We are writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. We have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Our group viewed such an institute as providing greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, my unit is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

We are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Butt', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Darryl P. Butt

Dean

College of Mines and Earth Sciences

April 4, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide my support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. There has been much discussion for the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. In particular, there is need to coordinate efforts on campus to pursue large collaborative and training grants oriented around solving these grand challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, the College of Social Work is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. I can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Social Work will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

I am delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and I support its formation. I look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

Best wishes,



Eric Garland, PhD, LCSW
Presidential Scholar
Professor and Associate Dean for Research | College of Social Work
Director | Center on Mindfulness and Integrative Health Intervention Development
University of Utah

April 5, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

We are writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. We have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Our group viewed such an institute as providing greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step, my unit is sharing the cost with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to our existing centers by connecting them with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

We are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Bond Stockton
Dean, School for Cultural and Social Transformation
Associate Vice President, Office for Equity and Diversity

April 3, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to express my support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. I have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges, and have agreed to serve on the NEXUS Executive Committee. As Director of the Global Change and Sustainability Center I have been working over the last several years to help catalyze and facilitate interdisciplinary scholarship around environmental themes at the University of Utah. The success of the GCSC and opportunities available to faculty and students through such interdisciplinary hubs have been well demonstrated, and there is a need for interdisciplinary structure and support in themes outside of the environmental area that is the focus of the GCSC. The NEXUS institute will provide opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, the GCSC has been working with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office to establish shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of interdisciplinary grants. The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. There are multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brenda B. Bowen
Director, Global Change and Sustainability Center
Associate Professor, Geology and Geophysics
University of Utah

April 3, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg,

I write to provide enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. As Chair of the Department of Anthropology in the College of Social and Behavioral Science (CSBS), I have participated in multiple discussions over the past two years about the high value such an institute would have for units within the College. I also believe this can go further in fostering interdisciplinary research across the University of Utah more broadly. Many units on campus address society's grand social challenges and such an institute will provide greater opportunities for scholars to share methodologies, train students, and be competitive for large grants to tackle such challenges.

I understand that NEXUS will provide infrastructure to help the College's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs). CSBS has invested heavily in these interdisciplinary hiring programs (now part of three such TEPs) and such an institute will help to provide the infrastructure so that each TEP does not need to provide its own. With respect to the TEPs, Anthropology has been actively involved in three Programs: 1) Society, Water and Climate (SWC), 2) Consortium for Families and Health Research (C-FAHR) and 3) Biodiversity. Our participation in the SWC Program has led to the production of new grant proposals, one of which was funded by the National Science Foundation for \$1.47 million. We also gained a new faculty member (0.2 FTE) through C-FAHR and another full time faculty member through Biodiversity. I envision NEXUS providing a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface, therefore providing a way for new TEPs to be developed.

Most highly research active R1 universities have such an institute, typically under the organization of a Social Research Institute. NEXUS has been designed to be a bit broader so that it may capitalize on the ways in which grand challenges require disciplines from politics to engineering, economics to geology to come together. Our College has been heavily invested in interdisciplinary research both within the College as well as across the University and NEXUS will further facilitate this work. I see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in my unit will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building.

I fully support the formation of NEXUS as a provisional institute and look forward to interacting with this interdisciplinary institute.

Sincerely,



Leslie A Knapp
Professor and Chair



April 5, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. In the College of Social and Behavioral Science, we have been talking over the past two years about the high value that such an institute will have for galvanizing and supporting collaborative research within the college, as well as fostering interdisciplinary research across the broader University of Utah research and policy communities. Many units on campus address society's grand social challenges, and such an institute will provide greater opportunities for scholars to share methodologies, train students, and be competitive for large grants to tackle such challenges.

NEXUS will also provide the infrastructure to help foster and support the college's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs). The College of Social and Behavioral Science has invested heavily in these interdisciplinary hiring programs (now part of three such TEPs) and such an institute will be efficient in providing the infrastructure so that each TEP does not need to provide its own. With respect to the TEPs, my own unit is centrally involved in two: 1) the Consortium for Research on Families and Health (C-FAHR) and the Neuroscience of Memory and Behavior. Both TEPs allowed us to recruit outstanding scholars who are already transforming the landscape of research on campus in such areas as developmental psychobiology, cognition and aging, and quantitative methods for studying change over time. As a member of C-FAHR, I have seen firsthand the galvanizing influence that the Consortium has had for both faculty and graduate students through its pilot grant programs and thematic programming. NEXUS will similarly – and on a greater scale – provide a mechanism for the development of new research at multiple interdisciplinary interfaces, therefore providing a way for new TEPs to be developed.

Most highly research active R1 universities have such an institute, typically under the organization of a Social Science Research Institute. NEXUS has been designed to be a bit broader so that it may capitalize on the ways in which grand challenges require disciplines from politics to engineering, economics to geology, and communications to genetics to come together. Our college has been heavily invested in interdisciplinary research both within the college as well as across the university and NEXUS will further facilitate this work. I see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in my unit will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building.

Department of Psychology
380 S. 1530 E. Rm 502
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
p: (801) 581-6124 | f: (801) 581-5841



I also think that the research infrastructure provided through NEXUS will make possible a variety of funded projects involving application and translation of research findings to issues of public health, public policy, and public good. We have the academic resources at the University, but issues of translation and the nuts and bolts of making contracts with local and state entities are new to most academics. Thus, the proposed improvements to campus infrastructure for grants and contracts that the institute would bring will make many exciting translational projects possible.

I fully support the formation of NEXUS as a provisional institute and look forward to interacting with this interdisciplinary institute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa'.

Lisa G. Aspinwall, PhD
Professor and Chair



April 2, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. As a chair in the College of Social and Behavioral Science, we have been talking over the past two years about the high value that such an institute will have for units within the college as well as fostering interdisciplinary research across the University of Utah more broadly. Many units on campus address society's grand social challenges and such an institute will provide greater opportunities for scholars to share methodologies, train students, and be competitive for large grants to tackle such challenges.

NEXUS will also provide the infrastructure to help foster the college's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs). The College of Social and Behavioral Science has invested heavily in these interdisciplinary hiring programs (now part of three such TEPs) and such an institute will be efficient in providing the infrastructure so that each TEP does not need to provide its own. With respect to the TEPs, my own unit, Department of Sociology, has hired an advanced assistant professor via the cluster hire on "Families and Health" and a full professor via the spousal hire of a cluster hire on "Society, Water, Climate." Both faculty members have made important contributions to our department's teaching and research missions since joining our department. They both conduct highly interdisciplinary research and currently working on interdisciplinary NIH R01 proposals as PIs. Without the TEP, these hires would not have been possible. The vast majority of our faculty conduct interdisciplinary research. NEXUS will provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface, therefore providing a way for new TEPs to be developed.

Most highly research active R1 universities have such an institute, typically under the organization of a Social Research Institute. NEXUS has been designed to be a bit broader so that it may capitalize on the ways in which grand challenges require disciplines from politics to engineering, economics to geology to come together. Our college has been heavily invested in interdisciplinary research both within the college as well as across the university and NEXUS will further facilitate this work. I see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in my unit will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building.

I fully support the formation of NEXUS as a provisional institute and look forward to interacting with this interdisciplinary institute.

Sincerely,

Professor & Chair

Department of Sociology
380 S 1530 E RM 301
Salt Lake City UT 84112-0250
(801) 581-6153
FAX (801) 585-3784



March 27, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. As a chair in the College of Social and Behavioral Science, we have been talking over the past two years about the high value that such an institute will have for units within the college as well as fostering interdisciplinary research across the University of Utah more broadly. Many units on campus address society's grand social challenges and such an institute will provide greater opportunities for scholars to share methodologies, train students, and be competitive for large grants to tackle such challenges. The fledgling Economics Evaluation Unit that we are developing in the College will also play a critical role in integrating methods and analyses intersecting with economics.

NEXUS will also provide the infrastructure to help foster the college's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs). The College of Social and Behavioral Science has invested heavily in these interdisciplinary hiring programs (now part of three such TEPs) and such an institute will be efficient in providing the infrastructure so that each TEP does not need to provide its own. With respect to the TEPs, economics faculty has intersected significantly with researchers in C-FAHR and Climate and Water TEPs. We have been deeply involved in the TEP in health economics and health policy, and look forward to having an economist as part of that TEP. NEXUS will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface, therefore providing a way for new TEPs to be developed.

Most highly research active R1 universities have such an institute, typically under the organization of a Social Research Institute. NEXUS has been designed to be a bit broader so that it may capitalize on the ways in which grand challenges require disciplines from politics to engineering, economics to geology to come together. Our college has been heavily invested in interdisciplinary research both within the college as well as across the university and NEXUS will further facilitate this work. I see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in my unit will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building.

Department of Economics
332 South 1400 East, Rm 222
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
801-581-7481
FAX 801-585-5649



I fully support the formation of NEXUS as a provisional institute and look forward to interacting with this interdisciplinary institute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Norman J. Waitzman'.

Norman J. Waitzman, PhD
Professor and Chair



Department of Anthropology | 270 S. 1400 E., Rm. 102 | Salt Lake City, UT 84112

March 28, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Subject: Support for provisional status of NEXUS

Dear Dean Berg,

I am writing to offer my resounding support for provisional status of *NEXUS* (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. As a researcher and instructor working at the intersection of multiple disciplines, I am keenly aware of the need for a center such as NEXUS to facilitate broad interdisciplinary partnerships at the University of Utah.

Carefully designed through a yearlong taskforce, NEXUS will leverage existing collaborations and partnerships on campus, and in the community, to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary teams primed to successfully compete for major funding opportunities. Importantly, funded NEXUS research teams will provide evidence-based solutions to critical research and real-world problems. Through these efforts, NEXUS will help position the University of Utah as a national leader in interdisciplinary science.

I am eager to engage with NEXUS and am honored to offer support for this visionary initiative.

Sincerely,

Brian F. Coddling
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Utah
270 S. 1400 E., Rm. 102
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Phone: 801.581.8663

Email: brian.coddling@anthro.utah.edu

April 4, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

As a representative of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHaSS) at Utah State University, I am writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. Derrik Tollefson and I have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Along with my colleagues in CHaSS, I believe that NEXUS will provide tremendous opportunities for scholars across our universities to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary and multi-institutional interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

We in CHaSS are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science at the University of Utah has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for research across our institutions to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,



Eric N. Reither
Professor of Sociology
Associate Dean for Research
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Utah State University

March 27, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg:

We are writing to provide our enthusiastic support for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. We have served on a taskforce over the past year that has discussed the need for an interdisciplinary institute at the University of Utah that will help facilitate research on society's grand social challenges. Our group viewed such an institute as providing greater opportunities for scholars to share ideas on grand challenges, tackle such challenges from a variety of different methods and disciplines, and be competitive for large grants and new opportunities tackling such challenges.

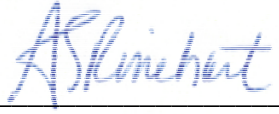
NEXUS will provide an important catalyst for research oriented around the University of Utah's hiring in the Transformative Excellence Programs (TEPs) and will also provide a mechanism for the development of new research at the interdisciplinary interface. NEXUS will therefore be a way for the TEPs to mature with shared infrastructure. As a first step in this direction, my unit is sharing the cost together with other units on campus and the SVPAA's office on shared research development managers that will help facilitate the development and submission of these interdisciplinary grants.

The formation of NEXUS is in line with federal external grant priorities that are funding research at the interdisciplinary interface. We can see multiple ways that faculty members, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students in our units will connect with NEXUS through research seed programs, the secure data center (if funded), assistance with statistical/spatial analysis, and the physical space in the new Gardner Commons Building. NEXUS will add value to existing centers in my unit by connecting these centers with other relevant units across the University of Utah.

We are delighted that the College of Social and Behavioral Science has put together this proposal for NEXUS and fully support its formation. We look forward to the ways that NEXUS will be an important resource for the university and the broader community to tackle the grand challenges of today and human solutions to those challenges.

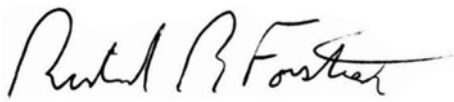
Sincerely,

Signature: _____



Amelia Rinehart
Professor, College of Law

Signature Date: 04/03/2018

Signature: 

Richard Forster

Associate Dean of Research, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Signature Date: 4/3/2018

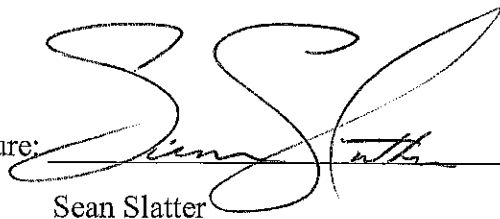
Signature: Andrea Brunelle

Andrea Brunelle

Chair, Department of Geography, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Signature Date: April 1, 2018

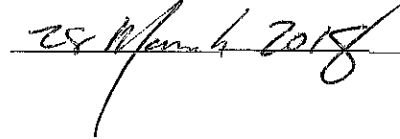
Signature: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SS' followed by a flourish.

Sean Slatter

CEO, Logistic Specialties, Inc.

Signature Date: _____

A handwritten date in black ink, written as '28 March 2018'.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah George". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" and last name "George" clearly legible.

Sarah George
Executive Director
Natural History Museum of Utah

Signature Date: April 3, 2018



Signature: _____

Mark Button

Chair, Department of Political Science, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Signature Date: April 2, 2018

Signature: 'Digitally Signed by Irwin Altman'

Irwin Altman

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology,
College of Social and Behavioral Science

Signature Date: March 28, 2018



Signature: _____

Kim Korinek

Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Signature Date: April 3, 2018

Signature: _____

David Strayer

Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Signature Date: 4/3/2018_____



April 12, 2018

Cynthia Berg, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science
University of Utah

Dear Dean Berg-

I have reviewed your proposal for provisional status for NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science) at the University of Utah. The proposed NEXUS Center has a clearly defined mission, is governed by University faculty, and provides access to shared resources and databases to multiple colleges and departments. The proposed center has established a feasible funding structure for the short term, and has strong prospects for long term viability and growth. The proposed center also does not offer any degrees, certificates, or transcriptable programs. The proposal therefore meets all the criteria necessary for approval as a 3-year provisional center at the University of Utah.

I therefore provide my full endorsement of this proposal to the Academic Senate Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents. The provisional NEXUS Center will provide strong benefit to the research and academic mission of the University, and strongly merits approval.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Kieda
Dean, The Graduate School
Professor of Physics and Astronomy
University of Utah
302 Park Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-9016
(801)-581-6926 (phone)
(801)-585-6749 (fax)

Cc: Prof. Margaret Clayton, Academic Senate

**The Graduate School
302 Park Building**

201 South Presidents Circle
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-9016
(801) 581-7642 · FAX (801) 585-6749
www.utah.edu/gradschool/