

President's Council on Entrepreneurship at UC

11/20/23 Draft

Goal

To materially advance the UC system's capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E).

The deep "why" of the University of California, as expressed in its [mission statement](#), is "providing long-term societal benefits." Research, teaching, and public service are fundamental "how's," as are innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E). We define innovation to be (a) new ideas that (b) are put into practice. We define entrepreneurship to be one method by which new ideas are put into practice, namely, through the creation of a new entity for doing so.

Principles

- 1) Campus Support: The acid test of the Council's activities is the value they deliver to our campuses, with particular focus on moving invention to commercialization.
- 2) Action: The Council has action at its core. It is designed to execute a mission.
- 3) Resources: Building UC's I&E capacity will require additional investment in early stage commercialization, which in turn will feed back to higher revenues to campuses.
- 4) Agenda: The Council sets its own agenda; its composition should assure a campus-driven focus.
- 5) Impact: The Council's work focuses where it can have the most durable impact, including making entrepreneurial opportunities available widely.

Composition

- The 15 members approved by the Regents are [listed here](#) with additional information.

Work Envisioned Over First Two Years

We envision *three deliverables* over the Council's first two years, likely one selected from each of three opportunity areas: **Sectoral Networks**, **Funding**, and **Collaboration**.

- 1) Sectoral Networks: For example, the Council could develop a platform that efficiently connects faculty to commercialization mentors, the mentoring supply side being a set of "sectoral networks" willing and well-positioned to support faculty entrepreneurs-in-the-making.
- 2) Funding: One example is a platform that connects faculty to proof-of-concept (POC)/pre-commercialization funding. Another is a springboard to transition discoveries from major national grants (eg, ARPA-H, ARCHES) into startups based on those discoveries.
- 3) Collaboration: This opportunity is about *solving identified problems*. For example, building a "how-to clearinghouse" to better disseminate the top I&E capacity advances across UC. Or facilitating inter-campus linkages that allow life scientists to advance incubation further, prior to startup creation, by accessing clinics/hospitals. Or creating a peer-to-peer "seminar" on Zoom where faculty founders within UC can present what their experience taught them to interested colleagues across UC. Or building on successful programs at UC for supporting female founders, founders of color, and other groups under-represented in the founder community.