Background

The UC-Mexico Initiative was launched by President Janet Napolitano in January 2014 for the purpose of creating a sustained, strategic, and equal partnership with Mexico – including academia, government, and the private sector – to jointly address common issues, inform public policy, and educate our next generation of leaders. Successes include a 34 percent increase in academic mobility between UC and Mexican institutions and a 4:1 return on UCOP’s investment in the Initiative, in the form of grants, matching funds, and in-kind contributions.

After three years of operation, the Initiative is transitioning away from its original working group configuration to create a structure that is more flexible and responsive. The UC-Mexico Initiative will continue to develop programs aligned with its original themes of academic mobility, arts and culture, education, energy/environment, and health, and will explore other priorities as well. The revamped structure will enable the Initiative to develop rapid responses to emerging issues, with an emphasis on public policy.

Leadership Council

Charge: As part of its restructuring, the UC-Mexico Initiative will create a Leadership Council. The charge of the Council will be to establish strategic direction for the Initiative and to provide advice related to policy and resources. Specific responsibilities include:

- To identify strategic priorities upon which the Initiative will focus. This may include a combination of ongoing themes as well as topical issues that arise. Consideration should be given to both the research and policy dimensions of such issues.
- To provide advice on the deployment of UC resources, including both funding and personnel, in response to these priorities.
- To serve as conduits to help leverage the UC investment with resources from external sources, including federal agencies, foundations, and private industry on both sides of the border.
- To assist in identifying and encouraging the engagement of relevant experts within the University of California and to recommend appropriate partners in Mexico.
- To advise on the potential impact on UC programs of political and socio-economic issues involving the U.S. and Mexico.
**Membership:** The Leadership Council shall be convened by the Chancellor of the lead campus overseeing the UC-Mexico Initiative, currently Kim Wilcox of UC Riverside. Members of the Leadership Council should include the following:

**Standing:**
- Faculty directors of ongoing thematic areas:
  - Academic Mobility
  - Arts & Culture
  - Economics/immigration/trade
  - Education
  - Energy
  - Health
  - Sustainability: agriculture, environment, climate
- Director, Center for US-Mexican Studies
- Director, UC MEXUS

**Ex Officio, non-voting:**
- Director, UC-Mexico Initiative
- Assistant Director, UC-Mexico Initiative
- UCOP liaison to the UC-Mexico Initiative
- Vice President for Research, UCOP
- Executive Director, Casa de California

**Ad Hoc:**
On an as-needed basis, the Council will invite others to participate in discussions relevant to their unique perspectives or interests. Examples are the Associate Vice Provost for the UC Education Abroad Program and the Chair of the Academic Senate Committee on International Education. Others will be included as the need arises.

**Role of Faculty Directors:** As members of the Leadership Council, faculty directors are expected to serve not as advocates for their respective disciplines, but as neutral advisors who look at the big picture in terms of UC’s interests and opportunities in Mexico, and who make recommendations in terms of priorities and deployment of resources.

In addition to the responsibilities enumerated above for the Council, the faculty directors will serve as nominal heads of their respective program areas. As needed, they will be responsible for the oversight and implementation of strategic priorities of the UC-Mexico Initiative. They will provide liaison to Mexican partners within their respective fields. Faculty directors will carry the title “Director of...” and will serve rotating 3-year terms.
with the possibility of renewal. On an annual basis, the Leadership Council will consider whether emerging issues or themes warrant the addition of a faculty director within a particular area, or whether existing themes/director positions should be altered in any way.

**Meeting Frequency & Location:** Meetings of the Leadership Council will be conducted quarterly, either in person or by teleconference, as appropriate. No substitutes will be permitted for participation in either in-person meetings or conference calls.