To: Members of the Faculty  
From: Michael Celia, Pablo Debenedetti, Jill Dolan, Lynn Loo, Kyu Whang  
Date: August 1, 2017  
Subject: Call for Proposals: Campus as a Lab

We are pleased to announce this year’s call for proposals on “The Campus as a Lab: Research in Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment.” At Princeton, the “Campus as Living Lab” approach is defined as a campus-based intersection of cultural, behavioral or operational activities and research that result in the advancement of sustainability problem-solving or discourse.

Research proposals can take various, discipline-specific forms. For instance, research might be quantitative or qualitative, and involve methodologies ranging from ethnography to surveys to artistic performances or narratives to monitoring or design projects (and more). Our intent is to make funding available for innovative projects that encourage faculty to collaborate with undergraduate and/or graduate students on studies that help promote campus sustainability and environmental responsibility.

This initiative is made possible by support from the Office of the Dean for Research, the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, the High Meadows Foundation Sustainability Fund, the Princeton Environmental Institute, the Office of the Dean of the College, and Facilities.

An illustrative list of possible topics for projects across disciplines includes:

**Sciences and Engineering:**
- Full life-cycle assessment for major building materials.
- Instrumenting and monitoring buildings for energy efficiency and water usage.
- Monitoring water quality, usage, and circulation patterns in storm water detention ponds, restored creeks, and other components of the campus hydrologic infrastructure.
- Designing overall improvements in the efficiency of our power generation infrastructure.
- Surveying and modeling the effects of vegetation on urban environments.
- Developing systematic approaches to understanding the psychology of sustainability decision-making.

**Social Sciences and Humanities:**
- Narratives, histories, and inquiries into the political ecology of sustainability at Princeton compared with other communities.
- Research into the viability of offsets and renewable energy credits as meaningful climate solutions.
- Studies of the intersection of human behavior with sustainable art and design in the built and natural environment.
- Quantitative or qualitative studies of the economic and environmental implications of transitioning campus agricultural land from conventional to sustainable farming practices.
• Developing new historical, cultural, or artistic perspectives on campus conservation and sustainability efforts.

The above list is intended to be descriptive, not prescriptive. Bold new ideas that involve the use of the campus as a laboratory for scientific, engineering, humanist, artistic, or social science research on sustainability, energy, and the environment are welcome. Projects that examine the campus within an expanded network, extending beyond the FitzRandolph gates, will be considered. For more potential research ideas, please visit: https://sustain.princeton.edu/lab/research.

We invite tenured and tenure-track faculty to submit two types of proposals:

• One-year projects involving undergraduate students: budget requests of up to $15K. Expenditures can include summer stipends, research-related travel by undergraduate students, capital equipment, and laboratory supplies.
• One-year projects involving graduate students or post-doctoral researchers: budget requests of up to $150K. Expenditures can include graduate student stipend and tuition, post-doctoral salary and benefits, research-related travel by graduate students or postdocs, capital equipment, and laboratory supplies.

Each faculty member may submit no more than two proposals, one in each of the above categories.

Proposals should be no more than three pages long, plus a separate budget page, and will be evaluated by a faculty committee on the basis of quality and originality.

Submit proposals to the attention of Associate Dean for Research Karla Ewalt (kewalt@princeton.edu) by November 20, 2017. Funding could start as early as February 5, 2018.

Faculty members are encouraged to contact Caroline Savage, Campus as Lab Manager with the Office of Sustainability (cs35@princeton.edu, 8-7513), to discuss possible projects.