

WHEREAS STATEMENTS

Whereas The Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture and Society (“Chase” or the “Chase Center”) was created in 2023 by the State of Ohio via statute, ORC 3335.39. The Chase Center was “established as an independent academic unit within the Ohio state university ... [that] shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society”, and the Center will have “ the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their appointments in the center,” ORC3335.39(B), and “to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs and offer degrees.” ORC 3335.39 (E)(3); and

Whereas the Chase Center shall be led by its Executive Director in accord with its enabling legislation, ORC 3335.39; and

Whereas the enacting state statute required the Board of Trustees to appoint (subject to confirmation by the Ohio Senate) a seven-member Chase Center Academic Council to conduct a national search for the Chase Center’s executive director. The Academic Council conducted an extensive search in the Spring of 2024, and submitted finalists to the President who selected the final candidate, subject to approval by the Board. Professor Lee Strang was selected and appointed in August 2024, and reports to the Executive Vice President and Provost; and

Whereas, to align the development and approval of this Center with the established process for University-level centers, the Council on Academic Affairs granted temporary center status in September 2023 with an expectation of a proposal for full center status once a Director was appointed; and in October 2024, the new Center Director submitted a proposal for full University Center status to the Council, where it was assigned to a 5-member Council Subcommittee, supplemented with a faculty representative from the University Research Committee and the Senate Fiscal Committee, and

Whereas throughout Autumn 2024, the Executive Director provided numerous presentations about the Chase Center and sought input on aspects of the proposal from a wide variety of stakeholders, including members of the Faculty Council, Undergraduate Student Government, Council of Graduate Students, the Interprofessional Council, and the University Staff Advisory Committee. A full University Senate meeting, November 14, 2024, was devoted to an informational session about the center and answering senator’s questions; and

Whereas throughout Autumn 2024, informational sessions on the proposed Center were provided and led by the Executive Director, the Dean of the John Glenn

College of Public Affairs and the Vice Provost for Academic Programs. These included meetings with the Council of Deans; with faculty at the Moritz College of Law, the College of Public Health, and the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; and with the chairs/directors in the College of Arts and Sciences; and

Whereas the Executive Director has met individually with colleagues across the University, has begun to hire a support staff, secured space for the Center, and has been planning several academic convenings, beginning later this academic year, and has identified potential student activities; and

Whereas the Subcommittee met with the Executive Director, the Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, and two Associate Vice Presidents for Government Affairs for input on the establishment and continuation of the Chase Center; and

Whereas the Council Subcommittee ensured that all components of a Center proposal were addressed, and gave considerable attention to aspects of implementation following center designation; and

Whereas once approved, the Center will report to the Executive Vice President and Provost, and implementation issues will be overseen by the Office of Academic Affairs.

With regard to personnel matters, the Center will adhere to all applicable expectations of an academic unit for hiring, promotion, and tenure, including the establishment of pattern of administration (POA) and appointment, promotion, and tenure (APT) documents (Faculty Rule 3335-6) working directly with the Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Faculty Resources.

With regard to curricular programming, the Center will adhere to all applicable expectations of an academic unit for course, certificate, program, and degree review and approval, working directly with the Vice Provost for Academic Programs.

With regard to fiscal viability, given that two years of funding have thus far been secured and an ambitious plan for hiring is proposed, the Center's budget will be approved annually by the Executive Vice President and Provost and managed by the Finance and Services Office in the Office of Academic Affairs, supporting the enactment of a plan for responsible growth, and also will work with leadership in the Offices of Business and Finance, Government Affairs, and Advancement on future funding sources and

With regard to overall planning, the Executive Director will continue to consult with faculty, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students and staff, in both formal and informal settings, to help shape the future of the Center; and

Whereas A tenure initiating unit (TIU) is defined by faculty rule 3335-06-06 (A) as “a division, department, school or college approved by the council on academic affairs, the university senate and the board of trustees”; and a center is defined by faculty rule 3335-03-36 (A) rule as a “non-degree granting educational unit of the university engaged in research; instruction; or clinical, outreach, or related service;” and the Chase Center, as a TIU and degree granting educational unit, is an exception to current faculty rules pursuant to the statutory requirements set forth in ORC 3335.39. which takes precedence over faculty rules; and the normal “qualitative requirements” of similar TIUs are defined in faculty rule 3335-3-34; the full Council on Academic Affairs did review and find the Chase Center to be in alignment with the intent of faculty rule 3335-3-34; and

Whereas the Center will be assessed through statutorily-required Annual Reports to the Ohio Senate and the Board of Trustees that will be shared with the Council on Academic Affairs; and

Whereas per the OAA Academic Organization, Curriculum and Assessment Handbook, centers are “reviewed per university policy” to address “the need to ensure cost-effective and successful stewardship of university resources,” and “the need for centers to provide valued and productive services to the university”; and the center's sustainability will be evaluated in terms of past, current, and projected performance related to fiscal and academic operations; and the Council on Academic Affairs will conduct its review process during the centers second, fourth, and sixth years.

Whereas the Council on Academic Affairs discussed the proposal at its meeting on December 4, 2024 and discussed and approved the proposal at its meeting on December 11, 2024; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture and Society and by acknowledging its statutory authority to house tenure track faculty who hold their appointments in the Center, and to offer courses and develop certificate, minor and major programs as well as graduate programs and offer degrees, inform the Board of Trustees of this action that will take effect immediately thereafter.

