

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

FROM: Trevor Brown, Dean of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs

DATE: August 31, 2023

RE: Request for Temporary Center Status for the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society

As dean of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, I offer this request to the Council on Academic Affairs for temporary center status for the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society (Chase Center) in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

House Bill 33 of the Ohio General Assembly (passed on July 4, 2023) directs the Ohio State University to create the Chase Center as an independent academic unit physically located in the Glenn College. Four companion centers are to be created at the University of Toledo, Cleveland State University, Miami University, and the University of Cincinnati.

Salmon P. Chase served as U.S. Senator (1849-1855); the 23rd governor of Ohio (1856-1860); the 25th U.S. Secretary of the Treasury (1861-1864); and the 6th Chief Justice of the U.S. (1864-1873).

The purpose of the Chase Center is to offer undergraduate and graduate teaching and conduct research on the historical ideas, traditions, and texts associated with the American constitutional order. House Bill 33 guides the Chase Center to:

- Educate students through free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;
- Equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind needed to reach their informed conclusions on matters of social importance;
- Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education;
- Aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university; and,
- Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry.

The legislation also guides the University's Board of Trustees to appoint a seven-person academic council composed of leading scholars. The council's composition will be subject to the advice and consent of the Ohio General Assembly. The council will have no more than one member from Ohio State and a minimum of three members from the state of Ohio. The task of the council is to conduct a nationwide search for the Center's first executive director and send a list of finalists to the president of The Ohio State University. The president will then select and appoint a director in conjunction with the University's Board of Trustees.

The executive director will be responsible for organizing and managing faculty appointments and staff hires. The executive director will also oversee research and curriculum conducted by the Center.

In accordance with university processes and procedures, upon appointment, the executive director will be charged with developing a proposal for permanent center status for the Chase Center. This proposal will come before the Council on Academic Affairs and the University Senate, likely in the fall of 2024.

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs is well suited to serve as the home of the Chase Center. The College's mission is to:

- Prepare tomorrow's public and nonprofit leaders through education, training, and professional development;
- Help solve public problems and build knowledge in the field of public affairs through interdisciplinary research; and,
- Integrate knowledge from inside and outside the university and transfer that knowledge to external stakeholders in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors across Ohio, the nation, and the globe.

The College's long-term vision is to serve as a model in public higher education for producing democratic citizens and public and nonprofit leaders, and creating, translating, and applying research that serves the public interest across the State of Ohio and the nation.

The College offers undergraduate and graduate degrees and professional development programs to prepare and develop public service professionals; conducts peer-reviewed research that informs public decision making; and engages public sector stakeholders and the community in programs that promote free and open dialogue and civic engagement. The College is home to two centers that conduct research and offer curricular programs.