



**MEMORANDUM  
CLUSTER HIRING INITIATIVE**

**To:** URI Faculty

**Cc:** President Dooley, Vice Presidents, and Deans

**From:** Donald H. DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Date:** May 29, 2012

**Re:** Faculty Cluster Hire Initiative

I am pleased to announce the selection of four new topics, one in each theme area of the Academic Plan, to be funded in fiscal year 2013 as part of the new cluster hiring initiative. The development for this new initiative and the cluster topics under each academic theme area occurred in collaboration with faculty during the Academic Summit and with the Faculty Senate Executive committee.

- A total of 13 proposals (at least one per topic area) were received from which 4 were selected (one in each theme area as per below).
- Four review panels, each comprised of 4 faculty members and one dean, reviewed the submissions in a particular theme area against the criteria in the RFP. They provided a written summary/assessment of each proposal and made a recommendation for the proposal(s), which most strongly met the criteria.

I have reviewed the assessments and am in agreement with the recommendations of the review panels. Those selected for funding are:

**Selected Cluster Topics**

***Liberal Learning and Scholarship for the 21st Century***

Islamic and Mediterranean Studies: *A collaborative for Islamic and Mediterranean Studies at URI*

***Science & Technology***

Sustainable Energy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – *A coordinated strategy for developing interdisciplinary Ocean Renewable Energy Programs at URI*

***Environment and Green Economy***

Water and Water Resources: Blue Environment & Economy - *Water: E2S2 - Water: Engineering, Science, Economics, Society Collaborative*

***Health and Wellness***

Aging of Society: Lifespan Health Focus - *Aging and Health: Promoting Wellness Across the Lifespan*

These projects propose new and exciting ways to work in cross-disciplines at the forefront of student learning, research, scholarship, and creative activities. They will support the expansion of knowledge and its application through various disciplines, enhance cross-disciplinary student learning, and benefit the State's economy. We look forward to seeing each of them come to fruition and advance the University's Academic Plan and further strengthen URI's position as a prominent learning-centered research university.