

Annenberg Institute Recommendations: Executive Summary

January 27, 2017

In fall 2016, in conjunction with the University's strategic plan, *Building on Distinction*, and to prepare for a search for the next director of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform following the retirement of Dr. Warren Simmons, President Christina Paxson charged Provost Richard Locke with reviewing the institute's mission, strengths and opportunities for the future.

The provost convened a broad-based committee of faculty, senior University administrators and Annenberg Institute staff to identify ways to build on the institute's record of success, more fully integrate it as a robust, active participant in Brown's core research and teaching mission, and position the institute as a hub for faculty-driven scholarship with real-world impact on educational practice and outcomes. The committee included the following members:

Janet Blume, Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty, Associate Professor of Engineering
Elizabeth Doherty, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
John Friedman, Associate Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs
Michael Grady, Interim Executive Director, Annenberg Institute
Kevin McLaughlin, Dean of the Faculty, Crocker University Professor of English,
Professor of Comparative Literature, Professor of German
Joseph Meisel, Deputy Provost
Susan Moffitt, Associate Professor of Political Science and International and Public
Affairs
Marisa Quinn, Chief of Staff to the Provost
Tricia Rose, Chancellor's Professor of Africana Studies, Associate Dean of the Faculty for
Special Initiatives, Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in
America
Karen Sibley, Dean of the School of Professional Studies, Vice President for Strategic
Initiatives
Rosann Tung, Director of Research and Policy, Annenberg Institute
Margaret Weir, Professor of Political Science and International and Public Affairs
Kenneth Wong, Annenberg Professor of Education Policy, Chair of Education, Professor
of Urban Studies, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Professor of
Political Science

The following is a summary of the committee's principal findings and recommendations.

Key Recommendations:

1. The Institute's work should focus on the causes, consequences, and mitigation of Educational Inequality. This focus responds to issues of vital importance to society, reflects areas in which social scientists, cognitive scientists, and experts on education policy pursue high-quality research, advances the goals of the University's *Building on Distinction* strategic

plan and the *Pathways to Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan*, and provides broad continuity with what have been Annenberg's central concerns since its founding. As an interdisciplinary hub for scholarship on education, Annenberg should not only support research that describes and analyzes specific aspects of educational inequality, but should also connect this knowledge with broader thinking about how to develop research-based *solutions* to achieve greater equity in educational opportunity and outcomes.

2. Within the central emphasis on the determinants, consequences, and remedies of educational inequality, **Annenberg's research and teaching activities should be organized around a small number of themes.** While specific themes must ultimately be shaped by the new director's ideas and vision, they should serve to design and organize clusters of interconnected research interests within the Institute.

3. **Annenberg should expand Brown's impact locally and beyond through involving key stakeholders and translating high-quality research by faculty into policy and practice.** While Annenberg needs to be integrated with Brown's academic mission, it should also build upon the Institute's strong history of working with practitioners and community partners. Annenberg can provide a structure for Brown to connect faculty research and education practice. As an interdisciplinary institute grounded in high-quality research pushing for solutions, Annenberg should support the exploration and application of translational methods and community-based research strategies among its affiliated researchers.

4. **Brown should establish a set of faculty positions at the Institute as well as programs for affiliating additional faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and students.** In addition, Annenberg's research and teaching activities include contributions from accomplished education experts and practitioners.

5. **Annenberg should play an enhanced role in the training and support of graduate students.** The growth and consolidation of research faculty and other affiliates around Annenberg offers the potential for new courses, research experiences, and training opportunities for master's and doctoral students working on education. This will strengthen the existing MA program in Urban Education Policy, in which Annenberg already plays a role, and create an opportunity to establish an interdisciplinary PhD training program like those funded elsewhere by the Institute of Educational Sciences.

6. **Annenberg should promote expanded curricular and co-curricular opportunities for undergraduates.** Building a community of faculty, postdocs, and other experts around Annenberg offers the prospect of significantly augmenting the range of courses available to the large number of undergraduates interested in education, while also broadening the opportunities for research and co-curricular experiences.

Guided by a strong articulation of the institute's mission and goals, the University will launch a search for an accomplished scholar and dynamic leader to serve as faculty director.