

UCCS Center Establishment Pitch Process Guidelines

Developed in Coordination with the Faculty Research Council, the Office of Research, and the Office of Faculty Affairs

Effective: September 18, 2026

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Goal: The UCCS Center Pitch Process aims to solicit and evaluate ideas for new centers and help identify teams of interested campus members *before* the Center Establishment processes begin ([per UCCS policy #200-013](#)). In this way, novel innovative ideas for new Centers will be better fleshed out for cross-collaborations across colleges, schools and programs as well as demonstrate new opportunities for external funding possibilities.

Definition: A center is defined as a single or multi-disciplinary unit which is organized to conduct education, research and creative work, and/or leadership and service activities. Such entities are characterized by less programmatic autonomy and less independence relative to institutes. Centers are typically organized around the investigation of a fairly specific theme, issue, project, or policy topic but often encompass interdisciplinary workspanning a number of academic fields. The lifetime of a center is often limited by the time and financial commitment needed to complete the particular project. Centers typically reside in departments, institutes, and/or colleges and report to department chairs, institute directors, or academic deans.

Center Pitch Process

Timing: During the Fall Semester of each academic year, the Office of Faculty Affairs will put out a call to campus announcing the date for the Center Pitch Forum. The Forum date will be announced to the campus with at least 45 days' notice to allow for adequate time for potential participants to plan and prepare.

Center Pitch Forum Attendees:

- Participants will indicate their intent to present a pitch during the forum by alerting the Office of Faculty Affairs at least 14 days before the Forum. The Office of Faculty Affairs will send out a list of those who plan to present to the campus community as a public invitation.
- Attendance at the forum typically includes the AVC for Faculty Affairs, the AVC for Research and members of the Research Faculty Advisory Board (R-FAB). The forum is open to any and all campus community members.

Center Pitch Forum Overview:

- 1) Participants will be given up to 15 minutes to pitch their Center idea, addressing the following in their presentation:
 - Mission statement: What is the goal of the Center?
 - Differentiation: What unique disciplinary perspective or advantage would this Center provide not already present at UCCS?
 - Team: Who do you envision being part of the Center?
 - Impact summary: What are the expected positive impacts?
 - What new external funding opportunities would this center offer?
 - How might the center benefits faculty, students, and/or the community?
 - Investment opportunity: What initial investments and/or resources are needed?
- 2) Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and brainstorm ideas, up to 15 minutes following each pitch.
- 3) Follow-up: Participants have the option of meeting with the Office of Faculty Affairs, the Office of Research, and R-FAB to further discuss the Center idea to explore, refine, and pursue recommendations before moving forward with Center Establishment.

Center Establishment: Participating in the Center Pitch Process *is a suggestion*, but not a requirement, for Center Establishment. Center Establishment is pursuant to [UCCS policy 200-013](#).