


MEMORANDUM

May 22, 2025

**TO: Deans, Interim Vice President for Research, Department Heads, Institute Directors, and Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty**

**FROM:** John L. Junkins   
Founding Director, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University

**SUBJECT: Call for Nominations for 2026-27 Fellows of the Hagler Institute**

I am delighted to provide this opportunity for you to enhance your program by nominating scholars for the 2026-27 cohort of Fellows of the Hagler Institute ("Hagler Fellows"). Hagler Fellows bring new ideas and collaboration opportunities that accelerate careers of faculty and students.

***Nomination Process:***

- The two-page nomination form for Hagler Fellows should be completed and returned to me on or before **September 1, 2025**.
- The nomination process should be coordinated with the college or school dean and the appropriate department heads who must sign the nomination forms indicating their approval of resource commitments (see Financing of Fellows, below).
- All colleges, schools, and the Galveston campus are allotted two nominations, which may include joint nominations involving commitments for cost-sharing. The allotment has been reduced from five to two for this round of nominations due to our largest class ever last year and anticipated budget constraints of the Hagler Institute.
- Colleges and schools with endowed chairs to solely support Hagler Fellows are allotted one additional nomination for each candidate who would be supported fully by an endowed chair.
- The Institute for Quantum Science and Engineering, the Institute for Neuroscience, the Center of Digital Humanities Research, and the Energy Institute are each allotted one nomination. These nominations are in addition to the nominations allotted to colleges and schools.
- All nominees should at minimum be of a "national academy level of distinction" as appropriate for their particular discipline. Individuals with a strong mentorship record are desired. Prior Hagler Fellows provide examples of successful nominations.
- **Nominations will be strictly confidential.** No contact should be made with the nominees. Not all nominees receive approval for recruiting, and we do not want to cause "bruises" to distinguished individuals or to the Hagler Institute's reputation. Nominees will be rigorously evaluated by the Institute's Faculty Advisory Board (FAB), a revolving panel of nine University Distinguished Professors. Important to note: Director Junkins does not advocate or vote in these evaluations; the FAB determines which nominees are approved for recruiting.
- Director Junkins will determine which approved nominees can be recruited given the Hagler Institute budget, with the primary consideration being the FAB's evaluations.
- Nominating entities commit to diligently recruit as Hagler Fellows all approved nominees designated for recruitment.
- Nominations are not to be made for Distinguished Lecturers. Following discussions with the relevant deans, Director Junkins will decide who, if any, of those FAB-approved nominees

who cannot be recruited as Fellows will be invited to be Distinguished Lecturers of the Hagler Institute.

- The Hagler Institute is an equal opportunity program devoted to excellence.
- Individuals who were previously nominated but not approved by the FAB are not eligible for re-nomination unless three or more years have passed since their previous evaluation.
- Individuals who were nominated last year (i.e., for the FY26 class of Fellows) and approved by the FAB but not designated for recruitment due to budget constraints may, at the Dean's discretion, be "carried over" as pre-approved nominations this year (i.e., for the FY27 class of Fellows). Director Junkins will notify the relevant Deans of any such potential carry-over nominations. Nominations may be carried over only once, and carry-over nominations will be pooled with other approved nominations for recruitment consideration.

### ***Recruitment:***

- Director Junkins will inform the Dean regarding which nominees are approved by the Faculty Advisory Board and designated for recruitment.
- Director Junkins will make the first contact with each approved nominee designated for recruitment.
- Unless the nominee expresses a definite "no" to being a Fellow, the Dean or the Dean's designated recruiter will follow up to work out the details pertinent to a Fellow agreement. Associate Director Clifford Fry and Assistant Director Blaine Buenger will assist the Dean with negotiating and writing the agreement and with other aspects of the recruitment, as needed.
- The Fellow's agreement will specify a daily pay rate, and Fellows will visit for a minimum of 65 workdays and a maximum of 260 workdays, which are the government-designated number of workdays in 3 months and 12 months, respectively.
- Emphasizing flexibility is important. Visits can be spread over a maximum period of 5 years.
- If a Fellow decides to come to Texas A&M for a continuous semester or year, the Fellow's agreement can be so expressed, and a monthly salary provided.

### ***Financing of Fellows:***

- The Hagler Institute will reimburse the college/school for 70% of the Fellow's stipends, up to a maximum outlay of \$210,000 (equivalent to \$300,000 in total stipends). The college/school will cover the remaining 30% of stipends plus 100% of the Fellow's allotted travel expense, housing expense, and discretionary fund. There are exceptions to the 70/30 stipend split for some cases in which Fellows are supported by specific endowments.
- If the Fellow is supported by the Timothy C. Hall – Heep Distinguished Faculty Chair in Biology, Trisha and L.C. "Chaz" Neely '62 – Hagler Institute for Advanced Study Chair in Mays Business School, Thomas W. Powell '62 – Heep Foundation Hagler Institute Chair for Science, or Karin C. and R. Bowen Loftin '71 Hagler Institute Chair, the college/school will cover 100% of all amounts paid to the Fellow, including stipends.
- Director Junkins will determine which Fellows are supported by endowment from the Welch Foundation ("Welch-Hagler Fellows"). The Hagler Institute will reimburse the college/school for 100% of the stipends paid to a Welch-Hagler Fellow, and the college/school will cover 100% of the Welch-Hagler Fellow's allotted travel expense, housing expense, and discretionary fund.
- Beginning with the FY27 class of Fellows (i.e., those recruited from this year's nomination set, including carry-over nominations), the Hagler Institute will provide a single one-year \$40,000

fellowship for a graduate student to collaborate with the Hagler Fellow and the A&M faculty host. The Division of Research will cover certain allowable fees and health insurance for the student, and the college/school will be responsible for paying the student tuition. These one-year fellowships are intended for high-quality Ph.D. students.

The impact to date of Hagler Fellows on our colleges, schools, institutes, and the university has been remarkable. Together we can continue to enhance the quality and reputation of Texas A&M University generally and your college, school, and department in particular. The collaborations enabled by these appointments frequently prove to be life-changing for faculty and students.

I will be pleased to offer any needed clarifications. Thank you.

CC: A. Sams