Thank you for agreeing to co-facilitate a Café Salon discussion!

Background

- We are seeking to identify cross-disciplinary research topics in which URI can become a national leader.
- The topic areas were selected based on input from a survey sent to all URI faculty in Fall 2018.
- We are hoping for faculty with similar research interests to talk and generate ideas for research convergence.

- Please make every effort to bring the various faculty and disciplines they represent into the conversation.

- As facilitators, your job is to get the discussion going, elicit participation and shared contributions and a respectful dialogue, and keep people on track with the goals for the conversation.

1. Communicate the goals of the conversation:
   a. To come from various perspectives and disciplines to collaborate to address the session topic
   b. Build on existing research and scholarly strengths, propose how the topic could be addressed; what we would have to offer to it?
   c. Come to consensus on the areas of focus for this topic to continue exploring together in the future

2. The note taker will capture the themes and gist of the conversation and send their summary notes at 2pm to VP Snyder who will talk about the conversation discussions at the dessert reception and review next steps for supporting convergence research topics.

3. Leave enough time to come to consensus on the main areas of focus to continue proposing and exploring together in the future.. probably 20-30 minutes to start attempting consensus.

4. If you have a larger group than @25 (which should be unlikely), you may need to split into two conversations and then pull together those conversations into one towards the
end of the time – leaving at least 30-40 minutes of time to do this. We expect breakouts
to have between 15-25 people, although some topics may elicit different numbers.

Here are the key questions to address and engage participants:

1. *What would it look like for URI to take leadership in this area?*

2. *How does work in this topic open up research/scholarly activity across disciplines?* - Who is already working on this topic?

3. *What is the right breadth of areas to be covered?*

4. *What are the University’s strengths that would build out this topic well?*

5. *What areas of the topic would be a main focus for URI?*