

## Provost's Advisory Committee on the Future of the Jackson Institute

*From Provost Ben Polak*

*April 28, 2017*

This committee is charged with considering the future of the Jackson Institute.

The formation of this committee is driven in part by a requirement in the founding documents of the Jackson Institute: that the provost undertake a review to assess “whether the Institute should be converted into an independent professional school. This study will thoroughly assess the feasibility and the desirability of such a conversion and include an analysis of the possible benefits to the University.” According to the agreement with the founding donor, this review must be completed by 2019-20. If at that time the president and Corporation do not decide to convert the Jackson Institute to a school, a similar review will be undertaken in 2029-30. This committee’s work will be the first step in the review process.

Over the course of the next 12 months, I am asking the committee to study and make recommendations about whether or not the Jackson Institute should be converted into a school. But regardless of the answer to that question, I am also asking the committee to make recommendations about what the *scale and scope* of the Jackson Institute should be. In other words, what is the right (feasible) size for the Jackson Institute? What fields should it include?

In order to give recommendations about the questions above, the committee will need to explore issues like

What is the current state of the Jackson Institute? What does it do well and what could it do better?

What is the appropriate size and scope for Jackson in terms of

- Faculty size and range of fields;
- The role of practitioners;
- Student body size and range of programs;
- Areas of focus (domestic, global, economics, political science, policy, others?); and
- Research mission.

What can we learn from policy programs and schools at other universities?

Would becoming a school help the Jackson Institute, and if so, how?

Would it help Yale to have a policy school, and if so, how?

What resources would be necessary to convert Jackson to a school? What resources would be necessary to convert Jackson to an *excellent* school? What would the opportunity costs be?

In all cases, the committee should be grounded in realism, but guided by the fact that we should always aspire to excellence.