TO: Boston University Academic Deans

FROM: Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 3, 2017

SUBJECT: Boston University Data Science Faculty Fellows – Call for Nominations

The Office of the Provost invites nominations of outstanding faculty to serve in the role of Data Science Faculty Fellows as an integral part of Boston University's Data Science Initiative (DSI).

As BU works to further advance its standing as a producer of truly world-class data science research and scholarship, a key facet will be identifying and elevating uniquely talented faculty whose expertise transcends traditional boundaries, leveraging the field's three methodological disciplines of Computer Science, Statistics, and Electrical & Computer Engineering to enable fundamental advances in the entire landscape of academic disciplines.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, Boston University will begin assembling a cluster of Data Science Faculty Fellows, who will be based out of the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science and Engineering, and whose work will be to help build on BU's vision for research and education in this strategically important area.

Appointment to the role of Data Science Faculty Fellow will be for a 6-year term, renewable upon evaluation of track record of collaborative research, and contribution to the DSI. Data Science Faculty Fellows and their graduate students and postdocs will be housed at the Hariri Institute (as space is available) and will be expected to lead or to substantively participate in large collaborative endeavors that go beyond their own research agendas. Faculty Fellows will likewise take an active role in the evolution of the DSI, including setting its strategic direction and assisting in the selection of new Data Science Faculty Fellows.

Faculty appointed as Data Science Fellows will receive:

- An annual unrestricted fund of $25,000 that be used towards support of DSI graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, visiting fellows, travel, SAIL software development or other research-related expenses.
- A centrally funded course release from their home department to enable the development and mounting of new cross-listed DSI courses or research seminars.
• Access to Hariri Institute resources, including staff support, office space for visitors, and/or shared computing resources beyond those available through home department/college.

Fellows may receive additional, individually-negotiated resources provided by home department or centrally as part of an offer, startup package, or other arrangements.

Data Science Faculty Fellows are appointed by the University Provost based upon the recommendations of the DSI Faculty Advisory Committee comprising the DSI Chair and one member from each of the core DSI departments of Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Mathematics & Statistics.

**Nominations of Current Faculty Members as Data Science Faculty Fellows**

Any BU faculty member may nominate a current BU faculty member or a prospective faculty member joining BU next year for appointment as a Data Science Faculty Fellow. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nominations should be submitted to the DSI Chair and should include a justification for appointing the faculty member as a Data Science Faculty Fellow, which should be based on the faculty member’s current research portfolio, demonstrated contributions, track record of interdisciplinary collaborations, and potential impact on data science at BU.

In each academic year, it is our intent to appoint up to 4 new Data Science Faculty Fellows. The nomination deadline for current faculty members this year is will be **April 1, 2017** and nominations should be submitted directly to DSI Chair and Hariri Institute Director Azer Bestavros (best@bu.edu). In subsequent years, the annual nomination deadline will be on or around March 1.

I want to thank you, in advance, for championing your colleagues through this important new effort and for your commitment to advancing research of the highest quality at Boston University. The development of BU's capability in Data Science marks a very important moment for us, as we explore new ways to further expand our footprint as a premier laboratory for pioneering scientific discovery. Your ideas and input are vital to this process, and I look forward to working with you in the years ahead to advance our aspirations.

Cc: Azer Bestavros, DSI Chair and Hariri Institute Director