MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty Senate Research and Arts Committee

From: Mary Rezac, Dean

Date: December 29, 2017

Subject: Alexandra Navrotsky Institute for Experimental Thermodynamics

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of the Alexandra Navrotsky Institute for Experimental Thermodynamics (AlexInstitute). Through the use of modern equipment, we are able to experimentally understand fundamental relationships between chemicals and material surfaces which govern areas as diverse as modern chemical catalysis, enzyme kinetics, and chemical and radionuclide transport in the environment. Thus, soon after I had agreed to join WSU, I was very pleased to learn that one of the world’s leading experimental thermodynamicists, Dr. Alexandra Navrotsky, had chosen to make a $1 million donation to the Voiland School at WSU to enable such research. I was also pleased to join President Schulz on September 20, 2017, to celebrate this gift and honor Dr. Navrotsky.

Dr. Navrotsky’s gift, which enables the Alexandra Navrotsky Institute for Experimental Thermodynamics, will provide funding that will enable us to achieve institutional Drive to 25 goals. In so doing, it will provide funds needed to match federal grants, to provide top-off funding for outstanding PhD and postdoctoral students, and to acquire and maintain equipment. The AlexInstitute will initially facilitate the research programs of two faculty members, one of whom is housed in chemistry and one in chemical engineering. As time progresses, however, I anticipate that other faculty members from not only these departments, but others such as materials engineering, geology, and physics may also benefit from this gift. As such, rather than being a drain on institutional funds, this Institute will provide funds that enable WSU to more effectively achieve institutional goals.

Consequently, I am extremely supportive of the proposed Institute.