

## Impact Guide Founder's Dilemmas

As a founder you ignore "people problems" -- your own and those of your team -- at your peril.

#### **Equity Split:**

Unfortunately, many of our natural inclinations about equity splits are wrong or counterproductive, destined to cause problems in the long run, even when they seem eminently fair, wise, and peaceful in the short run.

- Noam Wasserman, Founder's Dilemmas, page 145

Keynote Lecture Notes:

Impact Question: What will you do differently as a result of what you've learned from this module?



### Questions for you, the entrepreneur

- 1. What are the uncertainties that might affect my commitment to this startup? My cofounders' commitments to it?
- 2. If we haven't experienced the most difficult parts of the founding journey yet, how can we tell if any of us will be able to persist through them, or if one of us will drop out of the startup at that point? How can we proactively plan for that challenge?
- 3. What are my financial expectations? Am I being realistic with myself? Am I being honest with my team about my expectations?
- 4. What non-financial rewards am I willing to give up to gain financially, and what nonfinancial rewards are more important to me?

### Questions for your team, advisors, mentors

- 1. What commitment is each of us making? How certain are we of these commitments? What contingency plans should we have in place if someone falters in their commitments?
- 2. Who should be paid what, and why? Are we being realistic? Are we being open about our expectations?
- 3. What uncertainties exist that could affect the relevance of our equity split in the future? Which uncertainties are we underestimating or ignoring? How should we deal with them if a worst-case scenario comes true?
- 4. How can we craft an agreement that acknowledges the uncertainties and moving parts?



# Additional Resources from www.KauffmanFoundersSchool.org

Readings	Founder Genius
Notes:	Notes:
Other Related	Tools
Notes:	Notes: