MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty

FROM: Steve Roens, Associate Dean
       Undergraduate Studies

DATE: September 11, 2009

SUBJECT: 2010-11 University Professorship

Nominations and applications for the special rank of University Professor for the 2010-2011 academic year are now being sought by the Undergraduate Council. Applications or nominations should be submitted with a brief letter of intent (one page) to the Office of Undergraduate Studies by November 9, 2009. Appointment to this rank recognizes extraordinary skill in university teaching with an emphasis on crossing conventional boundaries, interdisciplinary relationships, and a strong commitment to liberal education. Individuals considered for the University Professorship will have demonstrated exceptional ability in challenging and stimulating the intellectual curiosity of undergraduate students.

University Professors hold this rank for one year and receive an award of $5,000, plus up to $10,000 to cover developmental costs associated with their projects. In addition to support for the goals of the University Professor’s project, the $10,000 award may be used to bring in guest speakers and for other activities that enrich the University Professorship. The home department of the University Professor receives $5,000 in teaching replacement funds.

The Professorship offers faculty the opportunity to launch a new project that will have a sustained impact on the University’s General Education curriculum or Bachelor Degree requirements. The project should reflect the rich traditions of inquiry found within one or more of the areas that compose these requirements. General Education requirements include courses in American Institutions, Intellectual Explorations, Quantitative Reasoning and Lower Division Writing, while Bachelor Degree requirements include Diversity, Upper-division Communication/Writing, the B.S. Quantitative Intensive requirement or the B. A. Language requirement, and the International requirement.

While a proposal for the University Professorship may contain a new course for any of these areas, the Council is particularly interested in proposals that go considerably beyond new courses. For example, candidates may propose to:

1. Develop and implement new interdisciplinary connections and emphases within and/or among any of the areas listed above.
2. Launch major new programmatic initiatives within and/or among these areas (e.g., ethics and society, writing across the curriculum, international diversity, etc.).
3. Integrate research or creative activities, service learning, or studies in other cultures or countries into clusters of courses in the areas listed above.
4. Develop and implement colloquia, guest lectures, or special projects that will expand and enrich in a sustained way clusters of courses in the areas listed above.
The Undergraduate Council expects that the University Professor will offer the course/project for three academic years, at which point the appropriate area committee will review the course for departmental listing.

In evaluating proposals for the University Professorship, the Undergraduate Council weighs heavily the following criteria:

1. Evidence of unusual creativity and success as an undergraduate teacher.
2. Originality of the proposal.
3. Feasibility of the proposal.
4. Prospects of the proposal making a significant and long-term contribution to general education and to the quality of the undergraduate experience.

In special circumstances, the University Professorship may be granted to two individuals who submit a joint interdisciplinary proposal. In such instances, the $5,000 award will be divided between the recipients. The $10,000 for project development will also be divided. However, the teaching replacement funds will remain at $5,000 to the department of each University Professor.

Selection Procedure for 2010-09 University Professor:

Applications or nominations should be submitted with a brief letter of intent to the Office of Undergraduate Studies by November 9, 2009. Nominations are accepted from faculty, staff and students. Nominees must hold the rank of regular faculty or may be, in the case of a group proposal, lecturer or adjunct faculty in combination with regular faculty.

Applications: Final proposals are due January 15, 2010, and should include the following materials:

1. A typed proposal of two to three pages describing the project you wish to undertake.
2. Evidence of unusual creativity and success as an undergraduate teacher (documentation may include numerical summaries and student comments from course evaluations; please do not submit raw course evaluations).
3. A project budget for the $10,000.
4. A recent copy of your curriculum vitae.
5. Letters from your chairperson and dean indicating their willingness to release you from regular departmental assignments to develop and implement the project.

Announcement of University Professor. The Undergraduate Council will interview finalists early in spring semester, and announce its decision after approval by the University Trustees.

If you have questions about the University Professorship, please contact Steve Roens (1-5249) or John Francis (1-3811).