



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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Academic Equipment Purchases

You may recall that the Dean's Office has at least asked chairs to submit requests for academic equipment purchases near the end of each academic year. Thanks to the generosity of Will Abele and the Abele Family Foundation, we now have access to an Abele Scientific Equipment Fund, which will greatly improve our ability to grant requests, particularly in the sciences, where expenses in general are greatest. We will formalize this process over the next few months so that we can improve our academic infrastructure and replace aging equipment. We also have some additional resources that will support needs outside of the sciences.

CFD

The Dean's Office has formalized a process to authorize searches for one-year post-baccalaureate fellows from the Consortium for Faculty Diversity, a national membership organization that Ursinus joined for the first time this past summer. Department chairs should have already received guidelines for this program, which includes a reduced teaching load and a close mentoring relationship with a departmental colleague; we anticipate hiring one fellow for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Community Conference Game Revisited

Nathan Rein and Mark Schneider wrote an article that was just published in a national Dean's Newsletter, the *ACAD Leader* which can be found [here](#). At the same time as getting the word out about Ursinus to our peers, we continue to look for ways to use games/simulations to help us develop, improve and deepen our understanding of systems and processes here at Ursinus. To that end, Mark Dushanko's CS class is developing an app for the game as a software design project.

Funding for Ursinus Quest Course Development and Related Activities is Available

Thanks to grants from the Mellon Foundation, the H.C. Smith Foundation, and NetVUE, a number of opportunities are available to faculty who are interested in developing courses and programming related to the Ursinus Quest curriculum and related topics. Available support includes stipends, course releases, funding for workshops and retreats, and partnerships with TLI consultants. More details are available at [this link](#) (or go to Grizzly Gateway > Dean's Office Resources > Grant support for core course development).

Staffing Changes in Academic Affairs

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Paula Álvarez to her new position as Director of International Programs. Paula has been at the college for almost 20 years, teaching Spanish language, running the Ursinus in Mexico program at Cuernavaca, and in her most recent role as study abroad and international student advisor. In that capacity, Paula has helped many students from around the world feel welcome at the college and ushered scores of Ursinus students into international experiences. We are grateful to have Paula in her new role at Ursinus.

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship

The Watson Fellowship Committee has selected four finalists for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a year-long international travel fellowship in which the Fellow conducts a project of their own design. They are Tommy Armstrong, Garrett Bullock, Min Son, and Codi Yhap. Please congratulate our finalists when you see them around campus!

Dean's Office Members

Mark B. Schneider
Kelly Sorensen
Meredith Goldsmith
Nathan Rein
Stephanie Mackler
Nicole Smith
Melanie Cunningham
Kiley Addis
Samantha Harvey