



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

POLICY UPDATES

ILE Requirement Waivers

Rising seniors whose plans for a summer internship have been disrupted by Covid-19 may petition the Academic Standards & Discipline Committee to waive the ILE requirement. In many cases, it will be best to seek a fall or spring internship instead – rising seniors should discuss this possibility with their academic adviser and the CPD. Petitions should be sent to Kelly Sorensen (ksorensen@ursinus.edu). Students granted a waiver may be required to enroll in a one-credit Spring 2021 course about career and post-graduate development.

Faculty Evaluation

To address issues raised during the covid-19 crisis, some adjustments have been made surrounding faculty evaluation, specifically in regards to SPTQs and pre-tenure faculty. For more details, please see the email sent by the Dean's Office on April 13.

S/U Grading Option for Spring 2020

As a reminder, students have until 11:59pm on Wednesday, April 29 to complete the S/U grading opt-in form for this semester. Students may choose to take S/U grades for any or all of this semester's courses. The grade of S should be awarded for any passing work (D- or better). Please maintain normal grading records for your students until the submission of final grades, as we will need to track students for whom an S grade reflects work that would have ordinarily earned a grade below C. For more information about the policy, go to <http://ursinus.edu/SUGrading>.

Transfer Credit Policy

In light of Covid-19, current students may transfer back to Ursinus up to two online courses that are completed during the spring and summer of 2020. These spring and summer online courses may be in addition to [the standard cap](#) of two courses (no more than 8 credits) for transferring online courses from previous or future periods. [Other standard requirements](#) apply: the final grade must be a C or better, the course must be consonant with the rigor and content of courses offered at Ursinus, etc. Students should first complete the [Study Elsewhere Form](#).

Celebration of Scholarship, Creativity, and Achievement

This year, in lieu of the annual celebration of scholarship and creative work, Academic Affairs will partner with College Communications to celebrate the work of faculty and students on-line. We ask you to submit a visual representation of work you may have published, performed, or exhibited this year. Examples: book covers and abstracts; journal articles (linkable pdf's desired; please include a one-to-two-sentence summary if possible); clips or images of performances or artworks. The virtual celebration will link to the Commencement page as well as academic affairs. We are eager to highlight your work; please send materials or queries by **May 1**. If your current work is already on the digital commons, please let us know and we can link to that too!

Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA)

Virtual CoSA has kicked off and will be running through Thursday, April 30. Student presentations, posters and performances are all be accessible to the Ursinus community online. Check out the [CoSA website](#) throughout the week to see the amazing work from our students.

Conversation Lunches

The "Conversations about and across Difference" series is back, in virtual form! At this time when we are all isolating, it is more important than ever to reinforce our sense of community. These conversations are designed to encourage faculty, staff, and students to cultivate the capacity to perceive and explore many kinds of difference. The next Conversations lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 12:00-1:00 PM. (No topic yet.)

Faculty Good News

Teresa Ko, Associate Professor of Modern Languages (Spanish) and Latin American Studies Coordinators, has been awarded a highly prestigious fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and another one from the Mellon-funded Inclusion Imperative Fellowship at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Ko will be engaged in writing and revision of her book manuscript, *Argentina: Race in a Raceless Nation*. Tony Lobo (Biology) and Mark Ellison (Chemistry), along with several student co-authors, recently had a paper accepted for publication focusing on antibiotic resistance. Rich Wallace (Environmental Studies) and Jess Greenburg '21 undertook a Summer Fellows project last summer focused on reducing student anxiety and despair. This work has now been published and focuses mainly on environmental studies, but provides lessons that are now more broadly applicable.

Grant Proposal Preparation Workshop

Join us on Thursday, June 4 from Noon-1 p.m. for a Virtual: Proposal Preparation Workshop!

In the age of technology, the process for developing an external grant proposal is ever changing. Are you new to grant writing or need a refresher? Do you want to learn more about how to maximize your potential for success and improve your proposal preparation process? If so, the Advancement Office invites you to join us for our Virtual: Proposal Preparation Workshop! Learn more about finding funding, proposal preparation and post-award responsibilities. We will be here to answer any questions you may have. [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact [Ava Willis-Barksdale](#) and [Annparke Sullivan](#) for additional information.

Quest and COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has brought out countless folks who seek to profit from fear and confusion—we've all seen the impact on our inboxes. Fortunately it has also brought out others who recognize real needs and are stepping up to help people get through the crisis and perhaps even come out stronger. A crisis always provides some opportunities in addition to damage—opportunities for good and ill. While we as a college are concentrating primarily on getting through the semester right now, we should not miss the opportunity to focus and adapt the work we do with students to helping them grow from this singular experience. The Open Questions framework may help us do this, as will our multidimensional support for our students from academics, co-curriculars, athletics, and more. Mark has [written a little](#) about why we shouldn't let this crisis go to waste.

Promotion to Full Professor

All tenured faculty in their fourth year or later after the receipt of tenure are eligible to apply for promotion to full professor. Faculty who intend to come up for promotion in 2021 are asked to submit a list of four external reviewers, including names, institutional information, phone and email address, and personal or professional relationship, if any, by June 15, 2020 to deansoffice@ursinus.edu. Sample self-evaluations from recently promoted full professors are available in Grizzly Gateway in Evaluation Resources, under Dean's Office Resources. Faculty who wish to discuss a trajectory toward promotion, or have any questions about the process, should contact Mark Schneider or Meredith Goldsmith to discuss their ideas.

Small Research Grants

The final deadline for small research grants for the year will be **June 1, 2020**. Funds of up to \$1000 may be requested to defray expenses related to publication. Funds may not be combined with other funding sources from the college and may be not used for conference travel. See [here](#) for more information.

Student Good News: Watson and St. Andrew's Fellowships

Two graduating seniors have won extremely competitive fellowships from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation to conduct a year-long international research project of their own design. Tommy Armstrong (English) will research the intersection of comedy and hardship in countries including Germany, Austria, South Africa, Japan and elsewhere; Garrett Bullock (History/IR) will explore drumming pedagogy and cultural value in Benin/Togo, Peru, Japan, and India. You can read more about their story on the [website](#). A Watson webinar will be available for all interested students and faculty on **May 15, 2020**; more information to follow. Additionally, Carlie Esposito '22 won a St. Andrew's Fellowship to study in Scotland for her junior year. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Dean's Office Members

Mark B. Schneider
 Kelly Sorensen
 Meredith Goldsmith
 Nathan Rein
 Stephanie Mackler
 Simara Price
 Nicole Smith
 Melanie Cunningham
 Kiley Addis
 Samantha Harvey
 Julia Arnowitz
 Alyssa Martin