

To: Faculty Colleagues  
From: Therese McCarty  
Re: Nichols Fellowship  
Date: November 21, 2008

I am very pleased to inform you of a new opportunity for faculty support made possible by a generous gift to the College by alumni and friends. This gift has made possible the creation of the Byron A. Nichols Endowed Fellowship for Faculty Development at Union College. The objective of the fellowship is to support Union College faculty in developing programs and skills that enhance intellectual, social, and personal interactions with students by, for instance:

- creating classroom environments that support students in intellectual risk-taking, that encourage students to be curious and to ask meaningful questions, and that encourage civility in discourse and self-expression such that students are able to defend their own positions and effectively question those of others
- developing and teaching courses that address ethical issues important to both individuals and societies
- mentoring and advising students by providing independent studies designed for the specific intellectual and developmental needs of individual students, by engaging with students in significant ways outside the classroom, by fostering personal accountability and moral responsibility, by facilitating student contributions to the intellectual environment of the college, and by introducing students to opportunities beyond college

One or more fellowships, with a total value of approximately \$10,000 per year will be awarded. Each fellowship will be awarded for a three-year period. Funds may be used for any relevant faculty development activity. Any course releases will be assessed at one-sixth of salary (one course release could span two years of the fellowship). Eligibility is limited to tenured professors. Priority is given to recently-tenured associate professors. Successful applicants will demonstrate commitment to the intellectual, social, and personal development of individual students, to promoting a sense of community among faculty and students, and to fostering positive change at Union.

Applications should consist of a letter detailing activities that would be undertaken with fellowship support, along with a budget.

Please inform me of your intent to apply by December 5. Applications should be sent to me, electronically, by January 15. Awarded fellowships will be announced in mid-February. I will determine awards, in consultation with an advisory group of academic deans and alumni.