

To: Faculty Colleagues  
From: Therese McCarty  
Re: Nichols Fellowship  
Date: November 30, 2010

I am very pleased to announce the second opportunity for faculty support made possible by the Byron A. Nichols Endowed Fellowship for Faculty Development at Union College. This fellowship is supported through the generosity of alumni and friends of the College. Its objective 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 fellowship will be awarded for the next two years, with a total value of approximately \$20,000. Funds may be used for any relevant faculty development activity. Any course releases (these can be fractions of a course) will be assessed at one-sixth of salary. 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.

The first Nichols Fellowship was awarded to Professor Stephen Schmidt of the Economics Department in the spring of 2009. Steve has used the fellowship to develop a new course entitled, "Norms, Values and Economic Justice" that will be taught for the first time in Spring Term 2011. The course objectives are as follows, "*Questions in economics come in two kinds: "what is?" and "what should be?" The first type of questions merely requires descriptive answers; the second type call for judgments about what is good. Economists cannot make any recommendations about what policies should be adopted and which should not without some idea about what economic outcomes are desirable and what kinds are not. In this course we will study the ways that economists have defined "good" outcomes of economic policies, and the roots of those definitions in philosophies about the good and about social justice.*"

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 15. Applications should be sent to me, electronically, by January 20. The awarded fellowship will be announced by the end of February. I will determine awards, in consultation with an advisory group of academic deans and alumni.