To: Faculty Colleagues  
From: Therese McCarty  
Re: Nichols Fellowship  
Date: October 30, 2012

I am pleased to announce the third 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, or

- 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 or three years, with a total value of approximately $16,000 - $24,000, depending on the length of the fellowship (two vs. three years.) 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, with priority 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.” The second Nichols Fellowship was awarded to Professor Carol Weisse of the Psychology Department in the spring of 2011. Carol has used the fellowship to develop a “Humanism in Medicine” practicum course that encourages and supports professional formation among students interested in healthcare.

Applications should consist of a letter detailing activities that would be undertaken with fellowship support, along with a budget and indication of plans to continue offering the course after the fellowship period.
Please inform me of your intent to apply by December 1. Applications should be sent to me, electronically, by January 15. The awarded fellowship will be announced by the end of February. I will determine awards, in consultation with an advisory group of deans and alumni.