




Office of the Provost

TO: Deans

FROM: P. Geoffrey Feiss 

DATE: 10 October 2008

SUBJECT: Class of 2012 Professorship



You may recall that in 2004, students voted a \$5 fee on themselves to fund three term professorships for mid-rank faculty (associate professor or full professor within five years of promotion to full) who clearly meet the College's highest standards in teaching, scholarship, and service. The specific attributes of a successful candidate are:

- Demonstrated excellence in teaching and scholarship
- Demonstrated commitment to a student-centered model of education
- Availability to students inside and outside the classroom, studio, or laboratory
- Excellence in student mentoring and/or advising
- Commitment to the core values of the College

Consistent with the procedures put in place at that time, a selection committee consisting of 5 faculty members and 5 students (the President of the classes of 2009, 2010, 2011, the Chair of the Undergraduate Council and the President of the Graduate Council) will make recommendations to me for the next recipient of this recognition who shall be known, during the three-year term of this award, as the Class of 2012 Distinguished Professor or Associate Professor as the case may be. S/he will receive a generous annual salary stipend and research fund during the term of the award.

Nominations are sought from students and faculty and should be brought to the attention of the nominee's department chair, program director or dean. Each final nomination must include:

1. a current c.v.
2. letter(s) of support from the nominee's department chair, program director and dean as appropriate.
3. documentation of teaching excellence
4. letters of support from faculty colleagues
5. letters of support from current or former students. The candidate must not solicit letters from students currently enrolled in his or her courses or who are under his or her direct supervision.

Nominations should be received in the Office of the Provost no later than noon, 2 March 2009.

## STUDENT FACULTY AWARDS

**PURPOSE:** The students of the College of William and Mary have created the William & Mary Student Professorships to be funded by an annual student fee as a tangible expression of their high regard for the faculty of the College. It is their intent that the annual awarding of this professorship to a faculty member who meets the highest standards of teaching, scholarship, and service and whose presence at the College has made a difference in the lives of many students will be noted by the faculty, the administration, and the College's friends and supporters as evidence of what students value most in their William and Mary experience – close contact with faculty who genuinely care about students as co-learners and fellow human beings. It is the intent of the students that the annual awarding of the William and Mary Student Professorships will assist in retaining William and Mary's best faculty.

**AWARD:** Each award will be \$10,000 annually (typically \$5000 as a salary supplement and \$5000 for research support) to an eligible faculty member for a non-renewable term of three years\*. Thus, there is to be an annual selection of a William and Mary Student Professor. Should a faculty member not complete his or her full term as William and Mary Student Professor, the remaining term will be filled as soon as practical and the new occupant eligible for reappointment for up to three additional years.

**SELECTION PROCEDURE:** The Provost will solicit nominations from the deans of mid-rank<sup>†</sup> faculty who clearly meet the College's highest standards in teaching, scholarship, and service. In addition, successful nominees will possess or exemplify:

- Excellence in teaching and scholarship
- Demonstrated commitment to a student-centered model of education
- Proven availability to students inside and outside of the classroom, studio, and laboratory
- Excellence in student mentoring and/or advising
- Commitment to the core values of the College of William and Mary

Nominees will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will provide the Provost with an unranked list of no fewer than two and no more than three<sup>‡</sup> faculty who the committee feels meet the criteria for selection. The committee will consist of:

- Five students – the presidents of each of the undergraduate classes and the president of the Graduate and Professional Student Association

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\* At the program's inception, three faculty will be selected – one each for a one-year, a two-year, and a three-year term. Those selected for one- and two-year terms may be reappointed.

<sup>†</sup>In the normal course of events, mid-rank refers to tenured faculty who hold the rank of associate professor or who have been promoted to professor within the past five years.

<sup>‡</sup> In the first year of the Selection Committee's deliberations, it should provide no fewer than four and no more than six nominees.

- Five faculty – three from Arts and Sciences and two from the schools. Faculty appointees will serve staggered, two-year, renewable terms<sup>§</sup> and be selected by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Assembly by means of their choosing.

The Provost will, annually, call the first meeting of the Selection Committee and set deadlines for nominations and for the committee's recommendations to the Provost. At the first meeting each year, the Provost and the Selection Committee will agree to the wording of the Call for Nominations and to the documentation required. At a minimum, a nomination dossier should include: 1) an up-to-date vita, 2) letter(s) of support from department chairs/program directors/deans of units in which the nominee holds an appointment, 3) documentation of teaching excellence, 4) letters of support from faculty colleagues, and 5) letters of support from students. It is not expected that external letters of support will be sought. The Selection Committee, in consultation and with the approval of the Provost, may make procedural modifications to the selection procedure as deemed necessary.

The annual announcement of the recipient(s) of the William and Mary Student Professorship(s) shall be made at the Spring Student Awards Ceremony.

**TERMS:** The above conditions have been agreed to by the President of the Student Assembly and the Provost of the College of William and Mary for a period of no less than five years beginning in the academic year 2004-2005. At the end of five years, a student-faculty committee jointly appointed by the President of the Student Assembly and the Provost will review the success of the program and decide on its continuance or modification.

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P. Geoffrey Feiss, Provost      (date)

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Brian Cannon, President      (date)  
Student Assembly

<sup>§</sup> At the program's inception, three faculty will have two-year terms and two will have one-year terms.