October 5, 2010

To: Department Chairs and Program Directors

From: Carl Strikwerda, Dean of Arts and Sciences

Re: Nominations for the Jennifer and Devin Murphy Faculty Award

Jennifer and Devin Murphy have endowed an award to support faculty research by providing salary support. The Dean of Arts and Sciences has designated this endowment to honor outstanding integration of faculty research with teaching involving either or both undergraduates or graduate students. The projects eligible for recognition in the awards include honors theses, independent studies, faculty research projects involving students, masters theses, or doctoral dissertations. Examples of the integration of research and teaching might include, but are not limited to:

- innovative integration of research into lecture or seminar courses;
- creative mentorship of students in independent studies, honors, masters, or dissertations;
- superior involvement of students in faculty research projects;
- leadership of community-based or service learning projects that creatively involve students in research.

The award will consist of a $3,000 annual salary supplement, in place for a two year term. Awards will be given in sequence: in the first year, to a humanities or arts faculty member; in the second year, to a social sciences faculty member; and in third year, to a natural sciences faculty member, after which the rotation will begin again. After the first year, there will always be two Murphy Faculty Fellows, one in the first year of his/her term, and the other in the second year of his or her term. The 2010 award will go a natural sciences faculty member.

Guidelines:

1. Tenured Arts and Science faculty will be eligible.
2. Nominations from chairs and directors or their designee, such as an associate chair or personnel committee, will consist of a letter of recommendation which will include discussion of the nominee’s successful integration of teaching and research, and a c.v. of the candidate that includes information about research with students.
3. Nominations are due in hard copy to the Arts & Sciences dean’s office no later than Monday, November 1. Under normal circumstances, the candidate will not be informed of his or her nomination.
4. Selection will be based on demonstrated success in integrating teaching and research with either or both undergraduates and graduate students, and will be made by the Arts and Sciences deans in consultation with the Faculty Affairs Committee.
5. The Murphy Faculty Fellow would have the Award beginning in the subsequent academic year.