

Criterion V: Service to the University and Community

Brief Narrative

Service to the university is a steady commitment I invest in several ways. One way I demonstrate this is through my committee involvement. Currently I serve on the Curriculum Committee, the LAM Committee, the MLS Steering Committee, Shared Governance Committee, Academic Advising Leadership Committee, serving as an Equity Champion, serving on two CLA dean searches within the last four years, and by supporting other faculty within my school as well as faculty outside of CLA.

Committee work supports our students through accredited, self-designed degrees, and courses offered and proposed in the MLS program. Committee work is hard, but the rewards are worth the effort to practice self-control, humility, and reason, and to adhere to justice.

Committee work also extends across to our sister MinnState colleges and universities. Articulation agreements between colleges and universities allows for a smooth transition from community college to university. An end benefit is that Metro State's creative writing program aligns has signed articulation agreements with Anoka/Ramsey and Minneapolis College so the transfer from an AA degree in creative writing is successfully accepted and applied to a four-year creative writing degree-seeking student.

Outside of MinnState committee work, I feel it is my duty to nurture the development of a community of learners specific to the program I teach, and more specifically, Metro State's community work. For me this starts the first day of each class and repeats itself every week thereafter. Students need mentoring, and part of mentoring is nurturing a community of student writers so that they may develop their written voices. A cohort of learners needs this special mentoring in the development stages, and consistent check-ins.

We also build community among students and faculty when we recognize excellence in student writing. Every year students from each MinnState university and college have an opportunity to be nominated by a faculty member to be the local recipient of the Carothers Distinguished Writers Award. For the last three years as resident faculty I have overseen the process of the Carother's Award by collecting submissions; chairing a committee of at least four Metro State faculty and/or staff members invested in reading submissions; sending off submissions anonymously to each of the committee members; scheduling meetings for deliberation; and selecting a winner. There are over 40 submissions each year and the process of selection is time consuming and quite detailed. A blending of colleagues in a decision of this importance is once again another way to recognize our colleagues as well as our students.

The last item that relates to Metro State community building is the equity champion training I initially completed in 2020, and then again in 2022. Even though I have not served as a equity champion in over two years, as a result of the training I am more informed at the complexities involved.

Community service reflects our investment in community and addressing the concerns within the community to support education, healthcare and mental health. I first and foremost think of non-university community as folks who live near the main campus on the east side of St. Paul. Having been born and raised in the neighborhood, I think it's important to be active within the neighborhood community, and many of our students live within five miles of the St. Paul campus.

In the broader community I am serving for a sixth year this spring as a flash fiction Judge for the American Voices Award sponsored by the Minnesota Writing Project. I also remain an active member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA). I embrace the campus neighborhood and I continue to volunteer to workshop about creative writing at high schools upon request. I remain committed to the university community as well as the broader community.

Also, when creative writing was under the department of Fine Arts, we participated in several events for a 2-year period ('22-'23), where we had many events at Midtown Global Market (MGM), where we held monthly poetry readings, Haute Dish events, and community festivals.

Community Involvement:

MGM: 2022-2023

Scholastic Adjudication Judge for Flash Fiction: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Carothers Award Chair/Facilitator: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Committees

MLS Steering Committee

MLS Capstone Project Reader

LAM Committee

Curriculum Committee

Attend regular monthly IFO meetings

Attend regular monthly Writing Literature, and Language (WLL) meetings

Attend regular monthly CW meetings

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Brief narrative

- a. Letter from Margaret Vaughan
- b. University and Community Service
- c. Transfer Program Partners
- d. Program Annual Reflection
- e. PDPs/PDRs
- f. Misc.