

To: Suzanne Nielsen, Associate Professor
From: Kristen Lillvis, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
Re: Professional Development Report
Date: 23 April 2025

Thank you for providing your 2024-2025 Professional Development Report and your department's comments. I also appreciate you revising and resubmitting your PDR based on some of that feedback. I will provide a written summary of "suggestions to guide future professional development activities, and any upcoming application for tenure and/or promotion," as described in Article 22, Section E, Subd.3.

Criterion 1 – Demonstrated Ability to Teach Effectively and/or Perform Effectively in Other

Over the 2024-2025 academic year, you taught several courses, including WRIT 357: Writers as Readers, WRIT 358: 1000 Words or Less, and WRIT 359: Boot Camp. Your face-to-face courses, particularly WRIT 357 and WRIT 481, received positive feedback from students who appreciated the interactive and workshop-intensive format. Your use of new texts, such as Salman Rushdie's *Knife* and Steve Almond's *Truth is the Arrow, Mercy is the Bow*, enriched the learning experience. Your commitment to assigning texts by authors of color also helps "close educational equity gaps" (Article 22, Section B).

In addition to teaching, you served during this period as Creative Writing Coordinator. As coordinator, you mentored faculty, developed new courses, and organized events, which contributed to the program's growth and community engagement. You also outline your achievements with *Haute Dish*, including organizing readings and the 70 poems in 70 days challenge, which has proven meaningful to students and our broader community. You have had positive and professional performance in this criterion.

Criterion 2 – Scholarly or Creative Achievement or Research

You engaged in various scholarly and creative activities, including publishing four creative works (poetry/fiction) and writing a blurb for Craig Evenson's poetry collection, *Meltwater*. Thank you for including the titles of your publications, where they appeared, and general dates of publication. Your involvement in the 70 poems in 70 days challenge and the subsequent anthology and reading highlight your contributions to the field. Additionally, your guest lectures and presentations, such as at the Jewish Community Center and the Fall "Stay Day" Leadership Retreat, demonstrate your commitment to advancing others' knowledge.

Criterion 3 – Evidence of Continuing Preparation and Study

You show in your report that you attended Get Lit readings organized by students, which fits as evidence of continuing preparation and study related to "attending student-organized cultural events and forums," according to Appendix G. You also shared texts you've been reading and how they have related to your preparation of courses; as you prepare future reports, you might consider adding even more detail about how this reading relates to "ongoing revisions to course syllabi or instructional methods" and/or "anti-racism, anti-oppression, or equity and inclusion topics" (as possible examples), related to Appendix G.

Criterion 4 – Contributions to Student Growth and Development

You supported student growth and development through advising, mentoring, and organizing events. Your efforts in advising students, writing letters of recommendation, and recruiting students to serve as editors for *Haute Dish* highlight your dedication to their academic success. Additionally, your role as chair for the annual Carothers Award demonstrates your commitment to creating meaningful professional pathways for students. Thank you for including your students' supportive comments as evidence of your positive and professional achievement in this criterion.

Criterion 5 – Service to the University and Community

You provided valuable service to the university and community through your roles on various committees and your outreach efforts. Your involvement in the MLS Advisory Committee, LAM Committee, and CLA Curriculum Committee highlights your dedication to supporting institutional goals and initiatives. You mention several activities under different criteria (such as the Carothers Award); as you prepare future reports, you might consider where a particular activity is most meaningful to your achievements for the review period (I recognize that your colleagues suggested adding the Carothers Award to this criterion as well—if you have the same item in multiple places, you might consider how you can describe the different aspects of the work). As another example, the program curriculum work might better fit under Criterion 1 where you discuss your coordinator duties. Thank you for your positive service to the University and community.

Thank you for sharing your report and your successes during this review period. Your contributions to the College, University, and profession are greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do!