

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Kiyak
Chair, Department of Communication

FROM: Ann Carden
Associate Professor/Chair, Department of Communication Personnel Committee

DATE: January 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Reappointment Recommendation: Dr. Angela McGowan

The Department of Communication Personnel Committee is pleased to recommend a one-year appointment for Assistant Professor Angela McGowan. Dr. McGowan has hit the ground running in her first semester as a tenure-track faculty member at Fredonia and has most definitely met the faculty's expectations. She has done an especially outstanding job at integrating the three areas of teaching, scholarly and creative work, and service.

Dr. McGowan has exhibited a strong commitment to her teaching. She constantly researches effective ways to facilitate class discussion and activities that encourage students to apply their knowledge and experiences to new situations. To measure her effectiveness in reaching this goal, she conducts a qualitative and quantitative midterm assessment in her courses in order to make any necessary adjustments to enhance learning. Faculty members have used the following accolades when talking about Dr. McGowan's teaching: "consummate professional," "very organized and prepared," "positive and supportive," and "a textbook example of organized class pedagogy." One faculty member observing a class said, "It was clear throughout the class that Dr. McGowan had a plan: a goal in mind for each example and exercise that was designed to reinforce the content covered that day." Another faculty observer took note of the personal connection she has with her students: "Angela knew all students by name and they obviously had a good rapport with her."

She creates curricula that cultivates students' understanding of communication theory and enhances their abilities to reflect upon the power of human symbolic activity. During her first semester, she taught three courses: Rhetoric and Criticism, Persuasion, and a special topics she created on Presidential Campaigns. The latter was an example of her belief that it is her responsibility to give students the tools they need to be successful citizens and articulate participants in society. A major project of the course was creating and executing a voter mobilization plan. Dr. McGowan is currently organizing a two-day job skills workshop that will help communication majors strengthen their resumes, cover letters, and interviewing proficiencies. She also has proposed a course on "Women in Leadership and Public Service" for the Honors Program and two courses for Fredonia Foundation's pilot program.

It's important to note that, in addition to teaching in the classroom, Dr. McGowan is extremely dedicated to working with students out of the classroom. She goes above and beyond in regularly providing advice and mentorship to students regarding assignments, graduate school, and research.

Dr. McGowan has a well-defined research agenda that incorporates well into her teaching. Her work in this area has clearly exceeded criteria for a first-year faculty member. An article on how Jon Stewart's appearance on "Crossfire" can be used to teach students about (in)civility and the Elaboration Likelihood Model will appear in the next volume of *Teaching Students (GIFTS) in Communication*.

Other research on how women senators rhetorically constructed the notion of bipartisanship during the 2013 floor debates was presented at the National Communication Association conference. She currently has three other manuscripts she is finishing for submission.

Her service to the department and university also has exceeded the criteria for a first year faculty member and, once again, integrates well with her teaching and scholarship. She volunteered to become the department's representative to the University Senate and chaired the university's ALL-IN Campus Democracy Challenge, during which she coordinated the highly successful visit of presidential speechwriter Craig Smith. She also joined the Assessment of Humanities courses in the GedEd curriculum and serves as the faculty advisor for the Applied Communication Association.

Overall, we are highly impressed with Dr. McGowan's performance. She has approached her new responsibilities with great professionalism. We are pleased to recommend her reappointment for the 2017-18 academic year.