




TO: Andy Karafa, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
FROM: Mark Kiyak, Chair of the Communication Department 
SUBJECT: Reappointment Recommendation: Dr. Angela McGowan
DATE: 1/20/17

I am pleased to be supporting the Department of Communication Personnel Committee's recommendation to reappoint Assistant Professor Angela McGowan. Dr. McGowan has begun her Fredonia career in an outstanding manner and has more than justified our initial expectations when she was hired. 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. As an addition to the curricula, she has created a special topics course on Presidential Campaigns. This course 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 also 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. Dr. McGowan 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.

In sum, I am pleased to report that I am highly impressed with Dr. McGowan's performance and concur with the Personnel Committee in its recommendation for her reappointment for the 2017-18 academic year.

cc: Angela McGowan