

**Invitation to Apply for the 2016-2017  
Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse  
Term of Appointment: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017**

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies invites Grand Valley State University faculty to apply for the endowed Padnos/Sarosik Professorship of Civil Discourse. Applicants may be tenure track, tenured, or affiliate faculty from any College, Institute, or Center of GVSU. Applications are due in the Brooks College Dean's office no later than October 9, 2015. Please send application materials to [brookscollege@gvsu.edu](mailto:brookscollege@gvsu.edu). For additional information, contact Dean Anne Hiskes at [hiskesa@gvsu.edu](mailto:hiskesa@gvsu.edu).

The next Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse will be publicly announced at the second annual Civil Discourse Symposium on November 19, 2015, where the awardee will be presented with the prestigious Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse medallion.

Dr. Lisa Perhamus, the first Padnos/Sarosik Professor of Civil Discourse, has graciously agreed to serve as a resource for potential applicants by sharing aspects of her experience and insights for a strong proposal. Dr. Perhamus may be contacted at [perhamul@gvsu.edu](mailto:perhamul@gvsu.edu).

**Objectives of the Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse**

Today's students will graduate into an increasingly pluralistic local, national, and international environment in which it will be impossible to insulate oneself from the complex issues facing humanity, and from individuals who have different but deeply held beliefs about these issues. Responding to the complex issues of the twenty-first century (climate change, poverty, human rights violations, health care reform, education reform, immigration, evolving gender roles, and community violence, to name a few) in a way that promotes peace, justice and respect for human dignity requires citizens and leaders who are skilled in listening closely, understanding and appreciating human differences, and promoting rational and respectful discourse.

The purpose of the Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse is to prepare Grand Valley students to take their place as leaders in promoting civil discourse in West Michigan and beyond, particularly in the political arena, and to serve as catalysts for vital discussions and debates while they are students. The goal of the program is to familiarize students with various tools that will help them analyze and understand the political, cultural, and personal motives and assumptions behind people's adherence to particular opinions and to teach the skills that will enable students to bring divergent views to the table with reasoning and respect.

**Term of the Professorship**

The term of the professorship is for one or two years, depending on the interest and availability of the awardee. The professorship is nonrenewable. Duties will begin with the Winter 2016 semester and continue through December. The second year of the Professorship will be for the calendar year 2017.

## **Duties of the Professorship**

### Winter 2016

1. Develop or adapt a 3-credit hour course that meets the learning objectives of a general education issues course and focuses on preparing students to be leaders in promoting civil discourse around one or more vital social issues of the Professor's choosing. The Professor will be expected to create and facilitate opportunities for students to gain knowledge and practice of civil discourse both in the classroom and within a West Michigan community (not excluding communities that are internal to GVSU or outside of West Michigan). The course should include a variety of high impact learning opportunities for developing skills relevant to the purpose of the Professorship. Ideally, this will be a course that can be cross-listed with the Professor's home department and IDS 350 in Brooks College.
2. Plan and organize a public symposium that engages with the course content, student activities, and ideally with community members.
3. Meet with the Advisory Board twice during the Winter/Spring/Summer terms and provide the Advisory Board with a progress report.

These activities will be incorporated into the Professor's standard workload for Winter 2016 either through 3 credit hours of reassigned time from teaching or through the area of significant focus supplemented with a stipend of \$3,000, depending on the scope of the project and the needs of the Professor and Professor's department.

### Fall 2016

1. Teach the 3-credit course on Civil Discourse.
2. Implement the Symposium on Civil Discourse.
3. Meet with the Advisory Board twice during Fall 2016.
4. Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the course and symposium with suggestions for improvement.

It is expected that the course will be part of the Professor's regular teaching assignment for Fall 2016. The professor will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for Fall 2016.

### Winter 2017

The Professor improves the Civil Discourse course based on assessments and plans the Fall 2017 Civil Discourse Symposium. These activities will be part of the Professor's significant focus. The Professor meets with the Advisory Board during scheduled meetings. The Professor will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for Winter 2017.

### Fall 2017

1. Teach the course on civil discourse.
2. Implement the Symposium on Civil Discourse.
3. Meet with the Advisory Board twice during Fall 2017.
4. Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the course and symposium and suggestions for improvement.

It is expected that the course will be part of the Professor's regular teaching assignment for Fall 2017. The Professor will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for Fall 2017.

## **Compensation and Funding**

In addition to the compensation or workload adjustment described above, the Professor of Civil Discourse will receive \$500 for professional development related to the purpose of the Professorship. Substantial funding is available for programming associated with the course and the Symposium. PSS support will be available.

## **Selection of the Padnos/Sarosik Professor of Civil Discourse**

An Advisory Board comprised of Grand Valley faculty, staff, and students, as well as community members, will evaluate applications and select the holder of this Professorship, and will lend support to that person as he or she engages in planning for the enhanced course and symposium.

### *Evaluation Criteria:*

1. Relevant teaching experience using high-impact learning practices, with preference for a teacher-scholar with experience in community-engaged teaching and scholarship relevant to proposed course.
2. Demonstrated teaching excellence.
3. Significance and relevance of the selected issues.
4. Potential of the course to attract and engage students.
5. Potential impact of the course on students.
6. Potential impact of the symposium on students and a broader audience.

**To apply, please send the following documents electronically to the Advisory Board for the Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse, in care of Sue Spears at [brookscollege@gvsu.edu](mailto:brookscollege@gvsu.edu), no later than October 9, 2015:**

1. A current CV.
2. The names and contact information of three references.
3. A letter of application that outlines a vision for the fall symposium and the 3 credit civil discourse course, addresses qualifications for the professorship, and indicates intent of whether or not to seek reassigned time in the Winter 2016 semester.
4. Letters of support from the applicant's unit head and dean indicating approval to include the responsibilities of the Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse as part of the applicant's regular workload or through reassigned time.