

FACULTY CALL

2026-2028 Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Faculty Fellow

The Padnos/Sarosik Faculty Fellowship program recognizes GVSU faculty (tenured, tenure-track, and affiliate) who show outstanding civil discourse, dialogue, and bridge-building commitments through their teaching, service, and scholarship.

Selected through a competitive application process, Faculty Fellows serve two-year terms as campus leaders of constructive and productive dialogue across differences.

Previously known as the Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse, the Faculty Fellowship program continues the Center's rich tradition of supporting and honoring faculty who prioritize the integration of civil discourse in their teaching. As the 6th such honored faculty, the new Faculty Fellow will demonstrate leadership in engaging students in constructive and productive dialogue; bridge-building; and civic engagement.

PURPOSE OF FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

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 yet deeply held beliefs about these issues. Responding to the complex issues of the twenty-first century in a way that promotes peace, mutual understanding, 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 Civil Discourse Faculty Fellow is to prepare Grand Valley students to take their place as leaders in promoting civil discourse in West Michigan and beyond and to serve as catalysts for vital discussions and debates while they are students. A goal of the Center 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.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Teach one section of an existing course through the lens of civil discourse.

Teach one course that emphasizes or adds a component to integrate key skills, strategies, and theories of civil discourse.

- Course must be a 3-credit undergraduate class.
- Course must be one that the candidate is regularly scheduled to teach.
- Regular student learning outcomes (SLCs) for the course must be met, but concurrently, there must also be at least one student learning outcome addressing civil discourse.

2. Co-ordinate annual Civil Discourse Symposium.

Work with the Center director to plan and coordinate the annual Fall symposium and, specifically, contribute insights from Faculty Fellow's area of study to enhance symposium programming.

- 2026 symposium planning is currently underway; the Faculty Fellow will be an integral part of the planning team.
- Symposium will address the theme of civil discourse and the ethics of online discourse; it is a partnership between the Padnos/Sarosik Center for Civil Discourse and Digital Studies.

3. Be an ambassador of civil discourse on campus.

Serve as a voice for civil discourse on campus.

- Occasionally serve as a guest speaker to meet campus needs (i.e. class visits, campus speaking engagements, etc.)
- Occasionally serve as a guest speaker in the community (e.g. represent the Center for interviews with local news outlets)

EXPECTATIONS & COMPENSATION

Fall 2026 & 2027

- Develop the Faculty Fellow's identified course for a Winter offering
 - Faculty development support and mentoring provided by the Center.
- Engage in a minimum of 1-civil discourse/dialogue professional development opportunity to extend background knowledge in this field
 - Funds provided for Faculty Professional Development support

- Co-ordinate and attend the Fall symposium
- Be an ambassador of civil discourse on campus and represent the mission of the Center.
- Attend Advisory Council meetings (5 per academic year, held on Zoom)
- Attend bi-weekly civil discourse team meetings

The time and effort devoted to these activities is expected to be on average 9 hours/week during the semester, or the equivalent to teaching a 3-credit hour course.

Compensation for Fall 2026 & 2027

- 3-credits of reassigned time from teaching
- Stipend of \$2,250.
- Professional development funding of \$1,000 for the *year*

Winter 2027 & 2028

- Teach the 3-credit course identified during the selection process as the course that will incorporate civil discourse
- Be an ambassador of civil discourse on campus and represent the mission of the Center.
- Attend Advisory Council meetings (5 per academic year, held on Zoom).
- Attend bi-weekly civil discourse team meetings.
- Begin co-planning the next Fall civil discourse symposium.

Compensation for Winter 2027 & 2028

- Stipend of \$2,250
- Professional development funding of \$1,000 for the *year*
- It is expected that the course will be part of the Professor's regular teaching assignment for Winter

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please send the following documents electronically to Lisa M. Perhamus, Director of the Padnos/Sarosik Center for Civil Discourse, in care of Samantha Rypstra to civildiscourse@gvsu.edu no later than **Monday, March 16th at 5:00pm**.

1. Current CV

2. Names and contact information for three references
3. Letter of application that (a) outlines a vision for the identified 3-credit course; (b) articulates why civil discourse is important and relevant at this historical moment; and (c) addresses the professor's qualifications for the Fellowship
4. Letters of support from the applicant's unit head and Dean, indicating approval to include the responsibilities of the Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Faculty Fellow with reassigned time for Fall 2027 & 2028 and as part of the regular workload for Winter 2027 & 2028. The Professor's college will be compensated for the reassigned time at the usual inter-college rate.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Must be tenure-track, tenured, or affiliate GVSU faculty
- A Selection Committee composed of members from the Center's Advisory Council and Civil Discourse Network will evaluate applications and select the 2026-2028 Faculty Fellow

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Relevant teaching experience using high impact learning practices, with preference for a teacher-scholar with experience in community-engaged/community-minded teaching and scholarship relevant to proposed course.
- Demonstrated teaching excellence
- Significance and timeliness of the vision for the course
- Potential impact of the course for students.
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrated commitment to honoring multiple perspectives