

-MEMORANDUM-

TO: Full-Time Faculty in the Natural Sciences & Mathematics Division

FROM: Mary Black, Provost  
Academic Deans: Randy Brooks, Laura Ledford, RJ Podeschi, and Pam Lindsey

DATE: September 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Application Guidelines for the John A. Leighty Distinguished Professorship in Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Applications are invited for the John A. Leighty Distinguished Professorship in Natural Sciences and Mathematics. All full-time faculty members in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division are eligible to apply.

**Description of Professorship:** The Leighty Professor serves for a two-year term (2022-2023 and 2023-2024) ; individuals may serve more than one term though not consecutively. The Professorship provides the following benefits:

1. A professional development fund of \$5,000 per year. This fund covers travel, research materials, laboratory needs, field studies, stipends for guest scholars or visitors, clerical or student assistance, or other appropriate professional costs. The Leighty Professor administers this fund in consultation with the Provost.
2. Also, the person holding this professorship will provide two written reports. The first report will be due at the end of the first year indicating progress towards the goals as stated in the application. A final report will sum up the professional development accomplishment in relation to the professorship. Reports are due to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and to the Provost.

**Application for the Professorship:**

Formal applications are due by the Monday following Thanksgiving Break by electronic submission and should include the following items:

- a prospectus of no more than 5 single-spaced pages containing a narrative outlining the proposed study program, its likely results, and the major uses of the professional development fund
- the narrative should additionally include a component that explains how this study potentially gives back or contributes to the discipline as well as to the department or general academic program at Millikin
- a current curriculum vitae, with copies of selected publications and other formal scholarly materials
- two letters of recommendation from professional colleagues, within or beyond the Millikin community
- **other supporting materials deemed important by the candidate following consultation with the Dean of Arts and Sciences.**

**Selection of the Professorship:**

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Committee of Scholarship and Faculty Development. Both the proposal's intrinsic merit and the applicant's previous record will be central considerations. Applications for research and pedagogical pursuits will be considered.
2. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Provost who will convene the committee.
3. The Provost will formally appoint the John A. Leighty Distinguished Professorship for the following two consecutive academic years by letter by the end of the fall semester. Formal announcement of the Professorship will be made at the January or February University Faculty meeting.

**Obligations:**

Yearly reports of Professorship activities, plans and reflections will be submitted each May to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost. In addition, at the end of the final year, recipients will be expected to present the outcomes of their professorship to the campus community, in a venue arranged with the Office of the Provost.

I urge all eligible faculty to consider applying for the professorship. This is both a valuable opportunity for professional growth and achievement and a tangible way for faculty to demonstrate the importance of scholarly activity to the ongoing renewal of the central teaching mission of the university.

cc: Dean Brooks  
Committee on Scholarship & Faculty Development