CANDIDATE STATEMENT: SERVICE

Although service represents a significantly smaller percentage of my responsibilities than research and teaching, service is important for the quality of our program and the reputation of our department. As I outline in this statement, my service to the department and my involvement in professional associations are commensurate with expectations of a junior faculty. In addition, I am beginning to be more involved in university-level activities.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Since beginning my tenure at UNL, I have been involved primarily with three department committees: Human Subjects Committee, Colloquium and Visiting Scholar Committee, and the Diversity Committee. Detailed responsibilities and sample materials are provided in the Appendix (see Service Appendix: Department). One of my major responsibilities in the department is chair of the Human Subjects Committee. In this role, I am responsible for supervising and coordinating reviews of all departmental submissions to the research compliance office at UNL. In addition to reviewing all applications and/or summarizing comments from other members of the committee, I also educate new graduate students on the process and update members of the department on any changes to the process or guidelines. Finally, I serve as liaison between the department and the Research Compliance Office when concerns or issues emerge that need to be resolved.

I also serve as the chair of the Colloquium and Visiting Professor's Committee. Each semester, the committee and I schedule research presentations by graduate students, faculty, and invited guests. Additionally, as chair of the committee, I work with members of the faculty to coordinate visits from distinguished scholars. These visits typically include presentations open to the university community, classroom visits or lectures, and individual meetings with graduate students, faculty, and research teams. We typically supplement the cost of these visits through Visiting Scholar Grants from the Office of Research, which I take responsibility for writing. Since I have been involved with this committee as a member or chair (beginning Spring 2005), we have brought in Dr. Gerry Philipsen (University of Washington), Dr. Betsy Bach (University of Montana), Dr. Patrice Buzzanell (Purdue University), Dr. Stan Deetz (University of Colorado) Drs. Shawn Parry-Giles and Trevor Parry-Giles (University of Maryland), Dr. Valerie Manusov (University of Washington), and Dr. John Lyne (University of Pittsburgh). Related to the colloquia series are professional development events, which are provided to assist our graduate students in such areas as developing a line of research and the academic job search process. I work with our graduate director to coordinate these events.

Finally, I am also the chair of the department's Diversity Committee—a new committee I introduced in 2006. The purpose of this committee is "to work with search committees and the graduate committee in recruiting diverse applicants; serve as a forum for concerns or suggestions about diversity issues in the department in order to maintain a climate that facilitates success of all students, faculty, and staff; serve as a resource for faculty and graduate students from underrepresented groups to get information contacts, etc. about the university and Lincoln community; update the department on presentations, forums, and events related to diversity issues (e.g., talks, presentations); initiate discussion concerning diversity on the department level; encourage incorporation of diverse issues and populations into curriculum and research;"
and initiate dialogue with community leaders concerning diversity issues and the department.” Given that this is a new committee, we are still developing materials and working on the process to achieve these goals. However, since the committee’s inception, important strides have been made in improving diversity in the department and addressing relevant issues.

I have served on three faculty search committees in our department. In 2004, we had an open position for a joint appointment in Ethnic Studies and Organizational Communication. Unfortunately, the two programs were unable to hire a suitable candidate that year. In 2005, I served on the committee that hired Dr. Kristen Lucas for our Organizational Communication position. In 2009, I served on the committee that hired Dr. Damien Pfister for our Rhetoric and Culture position. My responsibilities as part of these committees included reviewing announcements, assisting in advertising our positions, reviewing applications, and involvement in the interview process.

Like all of our faculty and senior lecturers, I am an active member of our Department Governing Body which, among other activities, includes taking part in curriculum development (with the department and members of the Interpersonal and Family Communication faculty), assisting with strategic planning, representing our department at local and state events, and recruiting graduate student. Recently, I have been helping coordinate an ad-hoc committee focusing on fundraising activities for our department. I have been involved in undergraduate student activities such as speaking at the Communication Studies Club and coordinating representation at the Big Red Road Show.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Over the last few years, I have steadily become more involved in service to our discipline (see Service Appendix: Professional). I am currently serving as the past-chair of the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association. In this position, I was in charge of planning the division’s program for the 2007 convention, which included soliciting panel and paper submissions, coordinating the review process, making submission decisions for papers and panels, creating panels for the convention, and coordinating awards for participants. After serving as the division chair, currently I am responsible for assisting current and past planners for the convention, developing initiatives to increase division membership, coordinating pre-conference activities, and arranging special events and speakers for our division. In addition to my work with the Communication and Aging Division, I have been a reviewer for the Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association in 2007 and 2006 responsible for reviewing 40+ submissions each of these years. Although the reviewing responsibilities were less, I have also reviewed for the Communication and Aging (2005, 2004) and Latino/a Communication (2005) Divisions of the National Communication Association. I have been a reviewer for general sessions of the International Association for Relationship Research (2006) and the International Communication Association (2005). I have served as chair or respondents for various panels of the Family Communication and Communication and Aging Divisions of the National Communication Association as well as the Interpersonal and Small Group Division of the Central States Communication Association.

Currently, I am serving on the Legislative Assembly for the National Communication Association, which is a governing body of the organization. In this capacity, I am responsible for
attending annual meetings of the assembly, disseminating information to the division we represent, and voting on proposals, referendums, and other governing documents. As a Chair of the Communication and Aging Division, I was a member of the association’s Nominating Committee to solicit and review nominees for our leadership positions. I served a similar role for the Central States Communication Association in 2008.

I have or am currently serving on four editorial boards: Communication Reports, Communication Quarterly, Journal of Family Communication, and Communication Research Reports. Further, I have served as an ad-hoc journal reviewer for 13 journals including top-tier outlets (e.g., Communication Monographs, Human Communication Research, and the interdisciplinary Journal of Marriage and Family). I have also reviewed proposals and complete texts for Sage Publications and Wiley-Blackwell.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

My emphasis on department and professional service has limited my university involvement to a few activities. Over the last few years, I served as a reviewer for Layman Award applications, Graduate Education Awards, and an outside reviewer for an ARD Project Review. I have also been a participant in New Student Orientation’s “Take a Parent to Lunch” program in 2006. During the last two summers, I have served as a faculty reviewer for the Institute for International Teaching Assistants in which I reviewed GTAs’ teaching presentations at the end of the institute.

SUMMARY

I believe my service to the department meets expectations of a junior faculty member as I have taken on responsibilities that are important for the quality of our graduate and undergraduate programs. In terms of professional service, I have been actively involved in our scholarly associations as well as being actively engaged in the peer review process that is crucial to ensuring quality work in our publications. My professional service indicates a level of expertise and commitment to the discipline and reflects positively on the department. Over the next few years, I envision taking advantage of opportunities to serve the larger university community.