

First Call for University Dialogue Discovery Authors

2007 – 2008

We Hold These Truths: *A University Dialogue on Democracy*

Dear Colleagues,

We invite your application to serve as a Discovery Author for the 2007-2008 University Dialogue. As you may know, the Discovery Program is the approach to the core curriculum that has been proposed to replace the current General Education requirements. The Faculty Senate has accepted the basic design of the Discovery Program and has endorsed the adoption of the Discovery Implementation Plan. Under this plan, we are piloting and assessing components of the Discovery Program proposal for Faculty Senate consideration.

One central component of the Discovery Program--the University Dialogue--is an initiative to draw first-year students into a series of community conversations focused on a central topic. Similar to this year's focus on energy, first year students will be given a set of position statements, written by UNH faculty and other campus leaders throughout the university. These readings, representing a wide range of views on and approaches to the topic, will serve as the basis for various small-group dialogues. Larger community events are also planned each semester to bring some of these groups together and connect students with the authors of the position statements. Finally, towards the end of their first year, the students will be part of an even larger discussion, the Town Hall Meeting, at which the university community will look back at the year's conversations, consider questions raised and implications to be explored, and look ahead to the next year.

While the current University Dialogue is still in progress, a subcommittee of the Discovery Program Advisory Committee made up of students, faculty and staff has selected next year's theme. The theme for 2006-2007 will be **Democracy**. We will address this topic by comprehensively exploring founding principles as well as threats to democracy in the US and internationally.

In order to apply, we are asking for a **250 word abstract** of your intended position statement. The Writer's Guidelines and Author Expectations and Recognition are attached. Please submit your abstract and a brief description of your background as it relates to the topic by **Monday February 12, 2007**. Faculty will be chosen to represent all schools and colleges. Authors will be selected and notified by mid- February.

As you know, the AAUP membership called on faculty to Work to Rule on October 16, which may complicate your decision about whether to participate in the University Dialogue. As you consider this opportunity, please remember that the Discovery Program is a faculty initiative. The goal of the Dialogue is to enhance the education of UNH undergraduates, and we would benefit from your involvement as we put this program together for the third time. If you have any questions or would like further information feel free to contact Cliff Brown at Cliff.Brown@unh.edu or Dan Beller-McKenna at dbmk@cisunix.unh.edu. We look forward to the participation of our talented faculty in this program.

Sincerely,

Joanne Curran-Celentano
Director, UNH Discovery Program

Cliff Brown
Co-Director, UNH Discovery Program

Michele Holt-Shannon
Assistant Director of Discovery

Dan Beller-McKenna
Chair, University Dialogue Subcommittee

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