



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate
FROM: Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
DATE: October 7, 2013

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

FACULTY HIRING WITHIN THE PROVOSTIAL AREA

In 2012, the Office of the Provost launched a broad-scale faculty hiring effort to rejuvenate the intellectual capital of Stony Brook University and to enhance the excellence of our academic programs. Our faculty hiring initiative, which was made possible by the SUNY2020 legislature, follows a three-pronged approach, adding faculty in critical need areas to support our core research excellence and our teaching mission, in strategic initiatives, and in interdisciplinary initiatives. This faculty hiring effort is now moving into its third year.

Within the last two years, the Provostial area has hired a total of 113 tenure/tenure-track faculty members, 47 who started in 2012/13 and 62 who started in 2013/14. This currently brings the tenure/tenure-track faculty strength on West Campus from 622 FTE to 695 FTE this academic year. Of these hires, 62 faculty were hired in the College of Arts and Sciences, split equally across three areas: Arts & Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Natural & Life Sciences. In parallel, we hired 32 faculty members in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, five in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, and eight in the College of Business, moving the college closer to its goal of AACSB accreditation. Individual hires were also made in the School of Journalism and the C. N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Through the generous support of our alumni and other philanthropists, we added seven new endowed chairs, nearly doubling the number on West Campus. Notably, four of the new chairs are in the Arts and Humanities. As part of our hiring initiative, we also launched an interdisciplinary faculty cluster hiring program. Two calls for proposals resulted in ten approved clusters for which we anticipate about 50 faculty hires, of which five have already been made.

INTERDISCIPLINARY FACULTY CLUSTER HIRING INITIATIVE

We are pleased to announce the results of our second call for proposals for Stony Brook University's Interdisciplinary Faculty Cluster Hiring Initiative. This is an exciting initiative launched by President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. and Provost Dennis N. Assanis in 2012 as part of Stony Brook University's SUNY 2020 plan to hire more than 250 faculty members over five years. It will, in effect, rejuvenate the intellectual capital of Stony Brook University and expand teaching and research in emerging fields of study that cut across traditional boundaries

of academic disciplines. The interdisciplinary faculty cluster hires are aimed at addressing society's most vexing challenges through the collaboration of natural, life, and social sciences; technology; medicine; humanities; policy; business; and the arts. The goals of this initiative are to strategically place Stony Brook University on the emerging frontiers of research and knowledge and to enhance our ability to shape new fields of discovery, learning and engagement.

This year's Interdisciplinary Faculty Cluster Proposal Review Committee was comprised of 16 senior faculty from across campus selected by the Provost's Office from a list of nominations submitted by department chairs and deans, and largely based on their expertise in areas relevant to the proposals themselves. Information on committee membership can be found at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/clusterhires/selection/committee.html>. The review committee worked diligently to review the 18 highly competitive interdisciplinary cluster proposals received this year. The review criteria that the committee adopted can be found online at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/clusterhires/selection/criteria.html>.

Each proposal was reviewed by a sub-committee of three faculty members, who first independently reviewed and then as a group discussed and wrote a report commenting on the proposal and scoring it. The individual reports and scores were then shared with the entire committee prior to the final meeting, at which time all of the proposals were discussed. A final list of proposals recommended for funding based on the aforementioned criteria was then presented to the Provost. Upon consideration of these recommendations and after consultation with the President and other senior administrators, the five proposals chosen to be funded in this round, in alphabetical order, are: Big Data for the Social Sciences, Center for Finance, Clinical Affective Neuroscience of Anxiety and Depression, Genomics, and a National Security Institute. Additional information on these cluster proposals can be found online at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/clusterhires/index.html>.

We are grateful to the faculty members who embraced this initiative for the creativity, thoughtfulness, energy and scope of their submissions, which is a true testament of the interdisciplinarity on the Stony Brook campus. We are also indebted to the Review Panel Co-chairs, Perry Goldstein and Bob Haltiwanger, as well as the other 14 distinguished committee members, for their highly dedicated and impeccable review, as well as Vice Provost, Axel Drees, who worked closely with the Provost in coordinating this effort. We would also like to thank the Deans and Department Chairs for their deep engagement and fastidious undertaking of this initiative to help the University advance new areas of scholarship. The faculty cluster hiring initiative will enable us to attract exceptional scholars from around the world to expand collaborative and innovative teaching, and interdisciplinary and translational research, throughout the university. We look forward to the contributions these new faculty members will make, and the range of proposals we have funded this year hold great promise for helping us accomplish our goals.

While not all the innovative proposals that have been submitted can be funded, it is evident that the calls for proposals has served as a catalyst for new ideas and has led to the formation of new intellectual directions and alliances. We are carefully monitoring the results of the first two rounds of the cluster hiring initiative to ensure that all areas of excellence on our campus are represented in the hiring plans to support the mission of our University. To this end, and with the President's support, I intend to convene a summit of intellectual leaders across campus to develop an action plan on how to invigorate our arts, humanities and lettered social sciences and

establish mechanisms to promote closer collaboration with other disciplines across our University.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013-2014 CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the 2013-2014 call for nominations for the Chancellor's Awards for: Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Faculty Service, Excellence in Librarianship, Excellence in Professional Service, and Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are system-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY's commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction, and serving the public good. Through these awards, SUNY publicly proclaims its pride in the accomplishment and personal dedication of its instructional faculty, librarians, and professional and classified staff across its campuses.

The nomination form and guidelines for preparing the nomination files are located at: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/provost/category/faculty/awards.html>. The nomination form must be submitted electronically no later than October 11, 2013. The completed nomination file must be received in the Provost's Office no later than November 8, 2013. For additional information, please contact Ann Ozelis, Executive Assistant to the Provost, at ann.ozelis@stonybrook.edu or 631-632-4360.

14TH ANNUAL CHEMISTRY RESEARCH DAY AT SBU

On Friday, October 4, 2013, we celebrated our fourteenth annual Chemistry Research Day at Stony Brook University—an annual showcase and celebration which features poster presentations by graduate students, undergraduates, and postdoctoral researchers highlighting the tremendous breadth of work in our Chemistry department. With all that Stony Brook has to offer with respect to Chemistry education and research, it is wonderful that we host Chemistry Research Day to provide an annual forum to recognize the many accomplishments of our students and to recruit new students to our Chemistry program. This event is also an excellent opportunity for undergraduates on campus, other members of our Stony Brook community, and faculty from local schools, to learn first-hand about the department's research initiatives. I can't close without also mentioning the commitment of the faculty to providing research opportunities for high school students, especially with their success in mentoring Siemens finalists and semifinalists every year. Furthermore, our new faculty hires in Chemical Biology, Biomolecular Imaging, Molecular Dynamics, Functional Nanomaterials, and Energy Storage will help to significantly further Stony Brook's mission of being a center of excellence in chemistry as a science with tremendous translational promise for solving some of the most critical problems that we, as a society, face.

OCTOBER 2013 PROVOST'S LECTURE SERIES

On October 22, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the Humanities Building, Room 1008, we will host a lecture by Catherine Malabou entitled "From Sorrow to Indifference." Catherine Malabou is a professor at the Centre for Modern European Philosophy at Kingston University, London. A former student of Jacques Derrida, she is the author of *The Future of Hegel* (1996), *The Heidegger*

Change (2004), *What Should We Do With Our Brain?* (2004), and *The New Wounded* (2007). This lecture is co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute and the Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory.

On October 24, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in Wang Center, Lecture Hall 2, we will host a talk by the 2013 Rohlf Medal Recipient, Paul O'Higgins. O'Higgins' lecture, entitled "The Measure of Things: Pattern, Process and Morphometry," will focus on the links between skeletal morphological variation, phylogeny, function and ontogeny. Paul O'Higgins is Chair of Anatomy at the University of York, UK, and Head of the Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences, Hull York Medical School. This lecture is co-sponsored by The Rohlf Medal Fund and the Department of Ecology and Evolution.