

Friday at the Center: February 27, 2004

NEH Fellowship Applications

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers fellowships ranging from \$24,000-\$40,000 to support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Applications from faculty at primarily teaching institutions like SPU are considered in a separate category than those of faculty at Carnegie 1 research institutions. The earliest that fellows may begin tenure is January 1, 2005; the latest date is July 1, 2006. Tenure periods for teachers must include at least one complete term of the academic year. The on-line application process becomes available on March 1, with an application deadline of May 1. See <http://www.neh.fed.us/grants/guidelines/fellowships.html>.

Applying for an Outside Grant?

Advance planning is crucial. Set aside at least a week or two to work on the application extensively. Be sure to follow the procedure outlined at <http://advance.spu.edu/corporations/externalgrants.asp>, including completing the institutional approval form at least two weeks before the application due date. Michael Hamilton or I are also available to review drafts of applications, if you give us several weeks notice. Also, keep in mind that if you obtain funding that will release you from a term or more of teaching, you must apply for a leave of absence through your school dean and the Faculty Status Committee. See <http://www.spu.edu/facstaff/handbook/faculty/leaves/2.asp>.

Plagiarism: The Series

This quarter's focus on teaching considers plagiarism, with a cumulative list of summary principles.

Principle 1: Educate. Help students understand what plagiarism is.

Principle 2: Prevent by assignment construction. Give specific topics and assigned sources.

Principle 3: Prevent by requiring assignment steps. (Research logs, a rough drafts, or annotated bibliographies)

Principle 4: Prevent by follow-up strategies. Use oral presentations or a meta-learning essay.

Principle 5: Make the penalties clear. Your syllabus should include a statement about plagiarism and cheating, including a clear description of the penalties that will be imposed. Quote SPU's institutional policy and refer students to the statement on "Dishonesty in Academics" found in the college catalog (03-04: pp. 50-51).

Professors have the discretion to establish their own penalties, depending on the nature of the offense. You might choose to excuse advertent plagiarism with a warning and requirement that the assignment be redone. A more blatant case of plagiarism or cheating might result in an F for the assignment with no possibility of a makeup or an F in the course as a whole. *If you do impose any kind of grade penalty, you must notify your school dean in writing.* The dean will send a copy of this report to Student Life for inclusion in the student's personal file. This step is crucial to identify students who may repeatedly plagiarize in several different classes.

Communicating penalties, however, can be presented in a positive light. This process exists to reassure honest students that their efforts are respected and valued. Both students and the instructor have an obligation to report and prevent cheating and plagiarism.

Happy Teaching!

SUSAN

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