

Truman State University

Faculty Roles and Responsibilities

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We faculty at Truman State University challenge ourselves as *teachers*, *scholars*, and *academic citizens*; our duties flow from these roles and from our engagement with the institutional values of student learning, intellectual challenge, deliberate reflection on improvement, and our public mission.

As *teachers*, we are the model and catalyst for the learning of our students: in the classroom, the library, and the laboratory; in our passion for continuing inquiry and reflection; and in the responsibilities of citizenship in the University community and beyond. We ignite the curiosity and knowledge of students and help transform that knowledge into the critical and demanding wisdom indicative of a liberal arts ethos. Students are neither our products nor our consumers; they are our apprentices in reflective forms of life.

As *scholars*, we are responsible for contributing to knowledge, wisdom, and art: in our professional fields, in the intersections and interstices of the disciplines and new areas of study, and in the scholarship of learning. It is our duty not only to transmit our cultures and to produce the useful, but also to evaluate and challenge existing habits of thought and practice. It is our duty to continue to learn and grow professionally.

As *citizens*, our responsibilities extend beyond the "service" duties of particular committees: we must be the leadership for the liberal arts values and activities that are the core of the university. Any healthy university is experimental and evolving, from its research and curriculum to its community values and structures; the Truman community pays particular attention to constant reflection on improvement. As faculty, the curriculum is our initial arena; however, as professionals we also have a responsibility to evaluate our own performance, individually and collectively. It is our responsibility to evaluate ourselves and our institution.

As *citizens* of the Truman academic community, our disciplines, the wider professoriate, and the public community we are responsible not only for acting as teachers and scholars but also for sustaining higher education and ensuring the conditions that make learning and wisdom possible; we are the stewards of public resources, and we constitute the character of the university. We treat all members of the university community with respect, with particular attention to the professional ethics of faculty interactions: we respectfully nurture the diverse potential of our colleagues, even as we challenge ourselves toward excellence.

We expect the autonomy and institutional structures that will enable us to fulfill our responsibilities.

Roles and Responsibilities Committee

Business & Accountancy: Sandra Fleak, Adrien Presley

Fine Arts: Jay Bulen, David Nichols

Social Science: Jeff Gall, David Gruber

Language & Literature: Wenying Xu, Dennis Leavens

Math & Computer Science: Kevin Easley, Tony Vazzana

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