2017 PROPOSED SUMMER SEMINARS

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND FREE SPEECH IN A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: WHO CARES (AND WHY)?

Facilitated by: Fr. Patrick Tobin (Adjunct Professor of Chemistry and Assistant Chaplain) and Teresa Collett (Professor of Law)

Proposed date/time: Half days on June 12 to 15 or August 14 to 17

This seminar will explore competing definitions of freedom, common good, and truth in the academic setting. How do we reconcile our institutional commitment to objective truth and contemporary understandings of freedom in research, teaching, and public discourse? Should Catholic universities prioritize research that addresses concerns of the Church? Can academic freedom undermine the common good? Does the Catholic Church support academic freedom? What are the limits of academic freedom in canon law? In civil law? How should Catholic universities reconcile claims of academic freedom and freedom of speech with our commitment to being a welcoming and safe community for all? Readings will include Ex Corde Ecclesiae, statements and policies of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and policies from a variety of universities, as well as statutes, regulations, law review articles and cases.

Seminar outcome: Participants will write a reflective/integrative piece that could be shared with other participants addressing the question of how their teaching and research advances our institutional commitment to the common good.

CHANGEMAKING AND SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR EVERY DISCIPLINE

Facilitated by: Adam Kay (Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the Social Innovation Collaboratory, Ashoka Change Leader)

Proposed date/time: Half days on June 12, 13, 15, and 16

Our recent designation as an Ashoka Changemaker Campus is testament to the way faculty and staff across the university already help students make the world a more socially and environmentally just place. The Ashoka designation helps us strengthen this culture and be more effective in realizing our mission. This summer seminar will help interested faculty from all disciplines better understand changemaking and social innovation-- what they are, how they relate to what faculty may already be doing in their courses, and how they can be used as frameworks to more effectively help students develop into well-rounded agents of change.
in their communities and world. Our work will be helped along by social innovators from the Twin Cities and by leaders of BrightSide Produce, a St. Thomas social innovation that has partnered with more than a dozen classes over the last two years.

Seminar outcomes:

- define changemaking and social innovation;
- demonstrate familiarity with tools for social innovation education that help students build empathy, understanding, and resilience;
- collaborate to identify how partnerships can create lasting social change and can contribute to educational goals in a wide variety of disciplines; and
- create a new or revise an existing assignment that both advances disciplinary objectives and uses changemaking or social innovation to empower students to be agents of positive social change

PUBLICALLY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Facilitated by: Katharine Hill (Associate Professor of Social Work) and Amy Levad (Associate Professor of Theology)

Proposed date/time: Half days on June 26 to 29 or July 10 to 13

How can we, as academics, be publicly engaged scholars? What does that look like in the context of our roles and responsibilities at the university? While faculty are often comfortable in engaging with other academics in their scholarly roles, they may be less familiar in how to connect their expertise with community-based, or social change needs. Our skills and resources as academics are often meaningful and useful to advocacy, voluntary, and community-based organizations and groups- but they are also underused, often because we are uncertain how to use them. Katharine Hill (Social Work) and Amy Levad (Theology) will facilitate this four, half-day workshop to support participants as they discern how they might draw upon their skills and talents as professors to advance the public, common good. We will also draw upon the talents and insights of others in the group and on campus.

Themes to be addressed include:

- Why does your work matter for the public?
- What are modes of public engagement open to you?
- What skills and practices do you need to develop?
- What support do you need?

Seminar objectives/outcomes:

- Identify how their scholarly work matters to the public and the common good
- Enhance their skills and practices in participating in publicly engaged scholarship.
- Develop a plan for how they might move to engage their work with appropriate community/public stakeholders