Cumulative Lecturer Periodic Review

I. Candidate’s Statement

The classes that I teach are quite large, from one hundred and fifty to five hundred students. Even when I teach upper division courses, the caps are quite high. Last semester I taught Sociology 412, the Social Construction of Reality, and there were eighty-nine students. Despite the size of the classes, I approach teaching with the same three goals. My first goal is to teach the students the course material. My second goal is to teach the students to think critically. And my third goal is to provide the students with a better understanding of the social world in which they live. I try to achieve these goals by preparing the best possible lecture, a lecture that is informative, challenging and engaging. I also use media, group assignments, extra credit assignments and writing assignments as means to achieve my goals. However, the lecture remains central to my teaching.

II. Teaching Effectiveness

I was chosen Most Influential Faculty in the Sociology Department in two of the three years under review. In 2011, I was not only chosen Most Influential Faculty in the Sociology Department, but I was also chosen Most Influential Faculty in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. In addition, in each of the three years covered by this review, I was recognized as Favorite Faculty by the residential students. I am the highest rated lecturer in the department, student evaluations, in all of the courses that I have taught. And I have achieved the high evaluations while maintaining a moderate grade average.

In the period under review, I have served on the Master Thesis committees and Comprehensive Exam committees of six graduate students who are now in Ph.D. programs at elite universities (Stacey Livingston, Ly Nugyen, at Christine Payne at UCSD, Chris Vito at UC Riverside, Nicole Rangel at UC Berkeley, and Christina Sanchez at University of Miami). Numerous undergraduates whom I have taught and for whom I have written letters of recommendation are in Master of Arts, Master of Science, and credential programs in sociology, social work, education, and counseling.

I offered a course in Fall 2013 which I had not taught before, Social Construction of Reality. And this semester, I am teaching Wealth, Status and Power. I have updated the course emphasizing the most recent trends in inequality and adding new material.

III. Currency in the Field

In the period under review, I have published two chapters in peer reviewed books.

“Waiting for Change: Obama’s ‘Progressivism’ and LGBT Rights” in Grading the 44th President. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Press, 2012.

“Globalization, Aging and the Power of the Image” in The Symbolism of Globalization, Development, and Aging. Stephen Arxer and John Murphy, Editors. New York: Springer Press, 2012.