**Faculty Seminar on Diversity and Inclusion: Higher Education Controversies - Spring 2025**

*“You are all brothers (and sisters)… for you have one Father who is in heaven.”*

—Matthew 23:8-9

**Purposes of the Seminar**

Questions of justice, equity, and inclusion in various areas of social life—whether related to race, gender, sexual orientation, class, and/or abilities—are being given ever heightened attention today. This is especially true in higher education, where DEI programs are increasingly being challenged. However, it is incumbent on us at a Catholic university to fully and meaningfully engage in advancing equity and inclusion given our professed and heartfelt commitment to the dignity, value, and worth of each and every human being (see Matthew 23:8-9 above).

With this in mind, the goals of this faculty seminar are four-fold:

1. to provide a space where participants can engage in informed and meaningful dialogue about some of the most controversial issues impacting higher education today, including:

Admissions Policies/Strategies (including Affirmative Action and standardized testing)

Decolonizing the Curriculum

Grading vs. Ungrading

Academic Freedom

Viewpoint Diversity

Achievement/Opportunity Gap

In each case the focus will be on pedagogical/instructional impacts/effects.

1. for participants to consider the theoretical frameworks employed by social/behavioral scientists and other academics/intellectuals/pundits involved in these discussions in order to analyze and address current controversies as well as to advance productive dialogue on these sensitive and polarizing issues at the university;
2. for participants to become agents for change in their departments, schools/colleges, and/or disciplines;
3. to provide participants with an opportunity to develop a new course or revise one that has been offered in the past in a way that demonstrates a commitment to creating space for generative dialogue on challenging topics in their disciplines.
4. For participants to learn strategies for managing difficult topics and differing viewpoints in the classroom and in other academic spaces on campus.

**Seminar Format**

There will be a total of six, 90-minute, bi-weekly meetings in Teams, starting the week of Feb. 3.

Meeting days and times will be arranged based on the schedules of the participants. While the goal will be to find a day and time that accommodates all who want to participate, please be aware that this may not be possible.

In the initial session, we will review the seminar objectives, seminar leaders and participants will introduce themselves, seminar norms for civil discourse given the different perspectives that may be represented will be identified, and the topics and presenters for the subsequent sessions will be agreed upon.

In the subsequent 4 seminar sessions, 1-2 participants (depending on the total number in the seminar) will each present on a current controversy in higher education, with readings/video clips for the group provided ahead of time, and will lead the discussion. The final session will focus on classroom strategies and syllabus development.

Discussions will focus on assigned readings and/or video clips. Dr. Mark Horowitz and Rev. Dr. Forrest Pritchett will also serve as discussants during the course of the seminar.

*We welcome all viewpoints and ideological positions on the issues raised in the seminar.*

**Eligibility**

Participants must be full-time faculty members, or adjuncts with long-standing in a

Seton Hall department or program.

**Deliverable:**

Option 1: A new or revised syllabus that incorporates changes that address diversity, equity, and/or inclusion

Option 2: A 2-3 page reflection paper that addresses an issue discussed in the seminar and the implications for the participant’s teaching or their discipline more broadly.

**Compensation**

Participants will receive a $500 stipend at the successful completion of the seminar. This includes attendance and full participation at all seminar sessionsand submission of one of the two deliverable options (see above) by May 30, 2025.

**The Application and Review Process**

Send the following information to Mary Balkun [mary.balkun@shu.edu](mailto:mary.balkun@shu.edu) and Anthony L Haynor [anthony.haynor@shu.edu](mailto:anthony.haynor@shu.edu):

1. Name
2. School/College
3. Rank
4. Indicate what topic(s) in higher education you’re interested in exploring and why.

**Applications are due by Jan. 22, 2025.**