




MEMORANDUM

To: Deans and Faculty

From: Michael W. Quick 
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: October 7, 2015

Subject: Provost's Assistant Professor Fellowship

I am pleased to announce the continuation of the Provost's Assistant Professor Fellowship. This program provides one year, before the tenure probationary period begins, for new faculty to pursue scholarship. The goal of the fellowship is to give scholars time to transform their strong scholarship into extraordinary scholarship by the time of the tenure review. Ambitious and cross-disciplinary projects can require additional time, skills, and resources to become influential projects. This year will not be counted as part of the tenure probationary period by the department or university. By fostering the growth of scholars early in their careers, USC hopes to open paths to new studies, questions, and experiments that will further cement our university's reputation as an academic leader.

The Provost's Assistant Professor Fellowship especially seeks applicants who contribute to diversity and equal opportunity at USC. Scholars' contributions to diversity may be evident in a variety of ways. Contributions might include scholarship focusing on underserved populations or societal inequalities. Faculty might bring to their research diverse perspectives that stem in part from their non-traditional educational backgrounds or from experiences as members of groups historically underrepresented in higher education.

This program encourages interdisciplinary projects that expand or transcend traditional fields of scholarly inquiry, digital scholarship that encompasses new approaches to questions, and the pursuit of scholarly questions in an area adjacent (or even non-adjacent) to the candidate's current field of study. Research may also include time-intensive activities that would be difficult to pursue, such as additional data gathering or research in distant archives, while handling the teaching and service responsibilities of a tenure-track faculty member.

The Office of the Provost will help support the recipients of this fellowship by providing a research stipend of \$20,000 and a portion of the faculty member's salary.

Deans will nominate candidates for consideration for this fellowship. Eligible scholars are those to whom an offer of employment will be made at the beginning assistant professor level. A faculty committee of leading scholars will discuss nominations and select a maximum of four recipients of

the fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year. The committee will choose fellows on a rolling basis to accommodate the different hiring timelines of the disciplines across the University.

Please forward any inquiries to Elizabeth Graddy, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, at vpafa@usc.edu.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
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President's Cabinet
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