Eugene Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking

Announcement and Call for Applications

Internal Search

Background and Purpose:

Over the past three years, RIT has benefited in considerable ways from the establishment of the Fram Chair in Critical Thinking. This chair, funded by an anonymous donor to honor Dr. Eugene Fram, Professor Emeritus from the Saunders College of Business, provides a means by which RIT’s strong tradition of providing students with educational experiences that foster critical thinking can be continued and strengthened and new cross-disciplinary approaches to developing critical thinking skills can be realized. The goals of the Fram Chair are enhanced by RIT’s Requisite Essential Learning Outcomes and General Education Framework – both of which place importance and emphasis on critical thinking and directly support the Fram Chair’s overarching goal that every RIT student acquires and demonstrates critical thinking abilities prior to graduation.

The Chair will work towards this goal by partnering with faculty, staff and administrators across all programs to more fully integrate critical thinking into existing and new curricula and facilitate new, cross disciplinary approaches to co-curricular student programming, faculty training, and scholarship related to critical thinking, with the long-term vision of developing a National Center of Excellence in Applied Critical Thinking that will bring national focus to critical thinking, especially in a technology-infused society.

RIT now seeks internal candidates for the second, three-year appointment to this position.

Position Details

The Chair works closely with other RIT academic units and programs especially general education and reports to the Provost. This is a 9.5-month academic position to be filled for the 2015-2016 academic year and is a three-year, renewable term. This position carries released time (up to 100% of teaching load) and a budget for activities and staff support.

This position should be attractive to faculty interested in assuming increased leadership responsibilities and contributing significantly to the University’s multidisciplinary commitments. The responsibilities of the Chair should contribute to a faculty member’s continuing scholarly agenda.

Responsibilities:

The faculty member selected to be the next Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking will set the stage and the agenda for activities that complement certain strategic expectations associated with this Chair. These expectations include:

- Collaborating with campus and community stakeholders to develop, implement, and assess critical thinking outcomes in order to ensure that existing critical thinking
educational opportunities are supported and enhanced, and newly created opportunities are established;

- **Partnering and Consulting** with an advisory board to help guide the annual and longer-term agenda for the Fram Chair. This may include communicating with the anonymous donor and honoree on a periodic basis as well as meaningfully interacting with employers regarding critical thinking initiatives;
- **Continuing** the Annual Fram Critical Thinking lecture series;
- **Supporting** faculty to enhance and showcase the integration of critical thinking pedagogical strategies that advance student learning;
- **Growing** a research and scholarship agenda (personally and among campus colleagues) associated with critical thinking that can foster and facilitate the aspirational goal of developing a national center of excellence in critical thinking at RIT; and,
- **Building** national recognition for critical thinking at RIT through strong and consistent leadership, advocacy, networking and outreach at the local, national, and international level.

**Eligibility:**

All full-time, tenured faculty are eligible. Applicants should have a strong record of overall achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service as recognized by peers. The ideal candidate will have:

- An earned doctorate; and achieved the rank of at least an associate professor;
- Experience working and collaborating with faculty on curricular matters, and a record of positive rapport and collegial relationships with faculty and staff across the University;
- Experience using pedagogical approaches that foster critical thinking;
- An interest and ability to engage in fund-raising activities to endow future Fram Chair initiatives (e.g. a national center on critical thinking at RIT); and,
- A record of strong interpersonal and communication skills (written and oral) and outreach and ability to successfully promote and implement ideas.

**The Process:**

Candidates should submit a letter of interest, a current CV, and a memo of support from their supervisor to Dr. Jamie Winebrake, Search Committee Co-Chair at jjwgpt@rit.edu or Dr. Laura Tubbs, Search Committee Co-Chair at letsch@rit.edu

The letter of interest should address the following:

- Your vision for critical thinking across the curriculum at RIT and how you would fulfill the strategic expectations of the Fram Chair in partnership with faculty, staff and administrators. Please include what you have done to promote critical thinking learning outcomes in your own courses; and,
- Approaches you would use and resources and organizational arrangements you believe would best facilitate your success in building RIT’s presence and reputation in the local, regional and national arena related to critical thinking.

Materials must be submitted by **March 16, 2015**. A decision will be made by **April 30, 2015**