

PROPOSAL: Amendment to Scholarship or Endowment – Bernadine P. Carlson

In 1986, the Bernadine P. Carlson Graduate Professional Writing Award was established to support graduate students in the Department of English who are U.S. Citizens and admitted to the Professional Writing graduate curriculum.

The conditions in which this gift agreement was written in 1986 no longer endure, as the Department of English no longer enrolls graduate students in a Professional Writing program. It does, however, have an undergraduate program (major and minor) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies, a field closely aligned with Professional Writing.

In order to best effectuate the intent of the donor(s), it is recommended that the Bernadine P. Carlson Graduate Professional Writing Award be amended and replace the original criteria with the following:

- The fund should be known as the Bernadine P. Carlson Rhetoric and Writing Studies Award.
- Annual interest income shall be used to provide an award to undergraduate or graduate students in the Department of English.
- Students must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents in good academic standing and enrolled in a minor, major or graduate program in the Department of English. Preference will be given to undergraduate students enrolled in the Rhetoric and Writing Studies program or courses and graduate students who do scholarly or pedagogical work related to Rhetoric or Writing Studies, including but not limited to Professional Writing.
- The fund shall be used for the stated purposes and under the stated conditions as long as these conditions endure at Western Michigan University. If the conditions no longer are in force, the Department of English shall have the power to determine how the funds shall be used, keeping in mind the intention of the donor.
- Awards may be allocated in the form of scholarships or hourly appointments for work conducted in the Department of English.

All other requirements for the endowment remain the same. This change is authorized by the original gift agreement but requires Board Action.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Board authorize the execution of an amendment to the Bernadine P. Carlson Graduate Professional Writing Award endowment as described above.