

February 24, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Carl W. Lejuez, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Appointment of Retired Faculty to Emeritus Status



RECOMMENDATION:

Following recommendations of the Emeritus (Retirement) Committee and of President Thomas Katsouleas, that Rachel Sealy Lynch, Ph.D, be appointed to the status of Associate Professor Emeritus.

BACKGROUND:

In her almost 30 years at UConn, Dr. Lynch has excelled as an instructor. As evidence of her exceptional performance in the classroom, Dr. Lynch has won two of the highest teaching awards one can win at UConn – the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Excellence in Teaching Award, and the AAUP Career Award for Excellence in Teaching. These awards demonstrate her strength as an instructor in Waterbury. She has created courses in Waterbury and Storrs, taught in both the graduate and undergraduate programs, and worked throughout her career to support “the health and vibrancy” of the English major in Waterbury, including by bringing her Irish Studies to Waterbury. She has taught a large range of courses, has served on many dissertation committees, and has consistently scored above departmental averages on her SET scores. Professor Lynch also has a solid research record. She has consistently published articles, book chapters, and book review in her time at UConn. Dr. Robert Hasenfratz, Department Head in the Department of English, describes her active participation in scholarship, in terms of publishing in prestigious venues, her active participation at national and international conferences on Irish literature, her organization of conferences and panels, and her term on the National Executive Committee of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Dr. Lynch has also provided important contributions to the Department of English through her leadership and service. She has served on important departmental committees including the Executive and Graduate Executive Committees, the Merit Advisory Committee, and Curriculum and Course Committees. She also has made strong contributions to the Waterbury campus. According to Dr. Hasenfratz, “For her work on Irish literature, for her many contributions to the English department, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels through her dedicated and innovative teaching, and for her many service contributions to the department, the Waterbury Campus, and her discipline, I believe that Rachael Lynch deserves to be awarded the title and privileges of [Associate] Professor Emerita. She has gone above and beyond expectations in both teaching and service.” In summary, Dr. Lynch has demonstrated that she is an excellent instructor, and has made strong contributions to UConn through her service and research.