

Sandmeyer – 1. Service Statement

My academic service at the University of Kentucky plays an enormously important role in my work as a Special-Title Series Faculty. It is to a large extent by virtue my academic service that I have been and am able to contribute most effectively to the collective growth and development of my department(s), my college, and the university, generally. Over my probationary years, I have conscientiously designed a service portfolio that allows me to build curriculum and programs here at the University of Kentucky.

Service: Philosophy Department

In philosophy, I have been faculty sponsor to both the undergraduate Philosophy Club (PC) and the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA) for several years. In these years, I introduced innovations that (i) link the PGSA and the PC together institutionally and (ii) rewritten the PC charter to ensure seamless continuity from year to year. The duties of the PGSA now include an explicit directive to mentor PC officers and to help facilitate the activities of that organization. Additionally, I rewrote the PC Constitution adding the position of vice president and writing into role a transition to the presidency after one year.

During my probationary period, I was a member of the Department Graduate Student Admissions Committee two different years. I am currently the Speakers Committee Chair, and I have been elected one of three faculty members to sit on the Department Executive Committee for AY2022-23.

Within philosophy, I have also been intimately involved in designing and implementing new curriculum essential to the vitality of the department. I wrote both the PHI205 Food Ethics (which fulfills a UK Core requirement) and the PHI336 Environmental Ethics syllabi for approval by the UK Senate. I am the department liaison with the Sustainable Agriculture and the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences programs. And I have negotiated to include these classes, respectively, as major requirements in their programs. Indeed, PHI205 and PHI336 are two of the most popular classes which we in philosophy offer today. Additionally, I designed and ran an experimental course, The History and Philosophy of Ecology, co-listed as PHI/ENS300. **See my Teaching Portfolio, 3.d.** As noted there, the experimental course this course fulfilled a major requirement of ENS students. This year with the help of the Philosophy DUS I intend to submit documentation to the UK Faculty Senate requesting the course be approved as a regular offering taught every other year.

Service: College of Arts and Sciences – the Environmental & Sustainability Studies Program

In 2010, well before my probationary period relevant to this dossier, the Dean of A&S invited me to join an Advisory Board to Create a New Environmental Degree Program (**see document 3.a.**). I became a major force in the design and implementation of the Environmental & Sustainability Studies (ENS) B.A. degree here in A&S, and I am a founding member of that Program Faculty. While my appointment resides solely within Philosophy, the most considerable amount of my service work to the College and the University is related either directly to my work as ENS program faculty or indirectly as an environmental philosopher associated with that program.

From 2015 to 2017 I was one of seven members (three core members, including myself) involved in developing a proposal for an Environmental Studies Graduate Certificate Program in A&S (**see document 3.a.i.**). During AY 2017-18, I was appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies for ENS (**see section 7 of my Teaching Portfolio**).

I helped write the ENS program guidelines which established an Executive Committee (modelled on the Department of Philosophy EC committee) in ENS. During the first year of my probationary period, I and one other faculty member were elected to the first iteration of this EC.

We worked with then acting director, Ernest Yanarella, to create stabilizing governance structures and innovative curriculum at a period in the history of the program marked by lack of development and stagnation. Today, the ENS program is one of the most vibrant and innovative in A&S.

As an environmental philosopher, I have been an active participant in the Dimension of Political Ecology (DOPE) conferences since their first in 2011. The DOPE conference is an interdisciplinary conference established and run by graduate students in the University of Kentucky Political Ecology Working Group (PEWG). During my probationary period, I have judged two graduate and two undergraduate essay contests sponsored by PEWG. And acting in my role as a member of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, I organized and moderated the first "International Association for Environmental Philosophy Panel" at the 2018 Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference.

Department Service: University

Perhaps, the most significant academic work contributing to the collective growth and development in service of my department and my college has been at the university-level. During the height of the COVID lockdown, I became very concerned for the integrity of interdisciplinary efforts here at UK. During this time, I came to see how the pandemic had dis-integrated UK faculty in substantive and possibly enduring ways. Consequently, I envisioned an Environmental Humanities Initiative at UK that would, at once, generate a renewed enthusiasm among UK humanities faculty for their interdisciplinary environmental work and build something here that would outlast me. I took it upon myself to complete a benchmarks study of Environmental Humanities Initiatives for UK during the spring and summer, 2021. On the basis of this study I wrote a proposal to develop and establish an Environmental Humanities Initiative (**see document 4.a.**) and workshopped this proposal at the 2021 Colby Summer Institute for Environmental Humanities (**see section 3.b.ii. of my Teaching Portfolio** for more details). In this proposal I laid out a series of short-, medium-, and long-term goals. Last year, the first of the Initiative, we accomplished three (of three) of our short-term goals: (1) creating an Environmental Humanities Community comprising 60 faculty, administrators, and community members; (2) establishing a partnership with the Cooperative for the Humanities and Social Sciences here at UK to act as incubator of UK-EHI programs; and (3) running our first EH Workshop during the spring 2022 term in which I and two faculty from outside UK (one of whom was incidentally selected as one of three candidates invited to UK for position of Dean of A&S by our Provost) participated. Moving into our second year, I am working to complete some of our medium-term goals. In the fall 2022, I will be teaching an experimental UK Core class, UKC 110 Introduction to the Environmental Humanities (**see section 3.j. of my Teaching Portfolio** for the flyer). This class will form (we hope) the basis of a new undergraduate certificate servicing the interdisciplinary environmental programs here at UK. And this next year I will be working with the Directors of Graduate Studies of our Humanities departments to establish and develop new avenues for funding, research, and pedagogy opportunities for the many graduate students in our EH community.

Since 2011, I have been an active member of the Steering Committee for the UK Sustainable Agriculture program (**see document 4.b.**). During this year, I developed the Food Ethics class to service this department's social and humanities requirement. More importantly though, I have been a consistent and strong voice for the transition of this program from its status as an Individualized Program to official B.S. Degree. This transition was accomplished three years ago.

In early 2017 the UK Provost established the Faculty Sustainability Council, whose mission was to assess and promote sustainability curriculum and research at UK. My tenure on the committee spanned the two iterations of the Council. After the first Council completed its task, we published the 2018 report, "Sustainability in Research and Instruction at the University of Kentucky:

Challenges and Goals" (**see document 4.c**). A short-term goal articulated in that report led to a \$47,000 grant funding the "Teaching Sustainability, Teaching Sustainably" Workshop co-directed by Helen Turner and me. (**See materials 6.a.iii & 6.a.iii.1. in my Teaching Portfolio** for full details of this workshop.)

From 2015-2018, I served as the Humanities representative on the UK Faculty Senate (**see document 4.d.**). During my tenure as Senator, I served on the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee. This was an especially important committee during an especially important time at UK. It was during these years that the mission of and parameters for the UK Lewis Honors College were established and approved by the UK Faculty Senate.

Service: Profession

Of course, I also completed and am currently engaged in significant professional service. I am currently a co-PI on an NSF Convergent Accelerator Grant Proposal (**see document 5.a.**). Our team recently submitted a National Science Foundation grant proposal having two phases. The first phase is a seed grant of \$750,000 to develop quantitative understanding of the total life cycle sustainability effects of the use of critical materials such as Li, Ni and Co in electric vehicle (EV) Li-ion batteries. Phase II is a \$5 million grant during which our Team will implement the Phase I plan. My work on the Environmental Humanities Initiative fits neatly in the convergent research parameters defined in the grant, and so I was asked to participate.

I am, of course, involved in several areas more traditionally associated with my work as a philosopher. During my probationary years, I have refereed books or articles in or written book reviews for the following journals: *Environmental Philosophy*, *Environmental Humanities*, *Husserl Studies*, the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, and Columbia University Press. I am an editorial board member of the newly created journal, *Phenomenological Investigations. Journal of the North American Society for Early Phenomenology*. I have been a long-standing editorial board member *Cogent Open Access*. Additionally, I have professional memberships and am active in the following philosophical associations or groups: the Kentucky Philosophical Association, American Association of Philosophy Teachers, the Husserl Circle, the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, the North American Society for Early Phenomenology, and the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy.