Request for Resources: Sociology 2017-2018

1. <u>Request for Tenure-Track Hires</u>
Area of specialization: To be determined
Secondary areas: Must teach research methods and/or sociological theory.
Rank at hire: ☒ Assistant professor ❑ Associate professor ☐ Full professor
Tenure status at hire: ☒ Probationary (untenured) ☐ Tenured
Starting date: August, 2020

We are currently conducting two searches for TT positions that will begin in Fall 2019. One is for a sociology of culture specialist who will also have expertise in one of the following areas: religion, immigration, refugees, media, politics, science, work, economy, music, sport, health, and mental health. Our other TT search is for an online teaching specialist who has expertise in one of three areas: social policy, religion, or science and technology. In addition we need an expert in social networks. Because these searches are ongoing we cannot yet specify our needs for our next search. Our plan is to focus a 2019-2020 search on one or two of our several areas of need that are not filled by the (hopefully) two new hires. Thus, we request hiring a tenure-track, Assistant Professor who is a specialist in area(s) to be determined, who will also teach research methods or sociological theory. This position will begin in fall 2020.

The specialization(s) we select will be major areas in sociology that we have little or no coverage for. We currently have no lecturer or regular faculty members qualified to teach sociologies of religion, media, or mental health. The other areas listed above have insufficient coverage to meet demands. For example, our only expert in sociology of science and technology is a lecturer in the process of completing his dissertation whom we rely on to teach core courses.

Sociology continues to be in a period of replacing TT faculty who are retiring/FERPing or moving to administration. We need more tenure track faculty to meet the needs of our expanding major. Our self-study shows that our number of tenure track faculty has not kept pace with our growth. We have had a 93% increase in majors since 2010 (329 to 635) while our number of tenure track faculty has remained flat. In fall 2019, assuming both of our current searches are successful, we will have eight tenure track faculty and two FERPers. Regular, high quality advising is associated with student success and closing achievement gaps. Sociology needs more tenure-line faculty to meet our growing advising needs. Despite our strong commitments to our majors, we have difficulty providing the ongoing advising that many of our majors need. Adding to our tenure-line faculty will continue to close this service gap. In addition, through our recent hires, we have hired diverse faculty highly skilled at teaching diverse and less prepared students. We will continue this trend with our proposed hire.

2. <u>Request for Other Resources</u>
a) Sociology needs a site license for a qualitative data analysis software (preferably NVivo) that we can teach in our methods courses and use in our research. Our campus has SPSS and SAS quantitative data analysis, but a search through IT services and ORSP found no available qualitative data analysis software. Faculty in other fields (e.g. Communications, Anthropology, Political Science, Human Development, Geography, Marketing, Environmental Studies, etc.) may also benefit from access to qualitative software for use in methods classes and research.
b) The sociology conference room (MI 3064) needs smart classroom equipment. We no longer use our conference room for most department meetings, campus visits by tenure track candidates, and department committee meetings because powerpoints, reviewing websites, demonstrating software, and other audio-visual presentations are routine features of such meetings.