

Tiffany Beechy
Department of English

Candidate Statement/BFA Chairship

Because this is a time of rebuilding, recovery, and change on campus, I believe a strong faculty voice is essential. My priority as Chair would be to communicate the perspectives of the faculty in shared governance with the administration as well as with the Regents; to cultivate our sense of shared mission and values; to continue Bob Ferry's good work of building rapport across the campus; and to extend that work toward the community we serve. Divestment and dependence upon student tuition have devastated public institutions across the country over the last several decades. I don't have a set of policy answers for those enormous challenges, and that is not the role of the BFA Chair, but I am committed to communicating the value of our research and our teaching as a vital public good at this time of renewed discussion of "the public good."

In terms of specific issues on campus that I think should be "on our radar," certainly the continued discussions around online education should be a priority, as should the urgent issues of diversity and inclusion. The ongoing work of ensuring oversight of visiting-faculty hiring by appropriate faculty units, as well as ongoing discussions of restructuring, from A&S governance structures to the campus budget, are also important BFA priorities. I would continue to raise the question of equity for non-tenure-track faculty, particularly as regards salary and teaching load. These are all things I have been involved with in my work with the BFA, on Faculty Council, on the BFA ExCom, and on the faculty affairs committee.

In case anyone is interested in my research life on campus, I am an early medievalist in the English Department, and my scholarship currently focuses on the intersection of aesthetics and theology in the art and literature of the period. My most recent book (forthcoming) is, essentially, on heterodoxy and the hard-core intellectuals who espoused it—not your grandma's medieval Christianity! I also serve as faculty program coordinator for the PhD Consortium in Literatures and Languages within the Center for Humanities and the Arts, working with an interdisciplinary group of PhD students. Thanks very much for your consideration. It's been an honor to serve on the BFA and it would be an honor to continue that work in a new capacity.