
August 31, 2021

UNI Faculty Senate

Greetings!

I write in support of Dr. Martha Reineke's application for emeritus status. Martie arrived at UNI in 1984, after receiving her B.A. at Earlham College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. Over the course of her 37 years at UNI, Martie has exemplified the idea of the teacher-scholar, and has made significant contributions to the institution and the discipline. Martie has the distinction of being the faculty member I am aware of who has received university-level awards in teaching, research, and service at UNI.

Martie is a stellar teacher. Over the years, she has developed numerous courses, and taught them to enthusiastic students. She is always reading pedagogy, paying attention to trends in education, and updating her courses to make them relevant and appealing to current students. One could easily say that Martie is usually—if not always—on the cutting edge of whatever is happening in teaching: she was one of the first professors to develop a course in UNI's technologically-enhanced CAT Classroom, and she has taught numerous first-year-only courses and worked with numerous peer mentors. She led the development of our departmental learning-outcomes-based majors, and spearheaded early efforts in student outcomes assessment in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Her efforts have been recognized with the Class of 1943 Teaching Excellence Award, the Liberal Arts Core Outstanding Teaching Award, and the Excellence in First-Year Teaching Award from UNI. The high quality of Martie's has also been recognized by her peers in the discipline with the Teaching Excellence Award from the American Academy of Religion, which is the national professional organization for scholars of religion.

Her research portfolio in religion, gender analysis and psychological theory is significant and wide-reaching. While other feminist scholars were criticizing the work of theorist René Girard, Martie was the first scholar to recognize its feminist potential, engaging it and other theories to develop a model for the analysis of sexually differentiated violence. Her first book, *Sacrificed Lives: Kristeva on Women and Violence* (1997), puts Girard and Julia Kristeva in conversation, and remains, according to one of her peers, "groundbreaking twenty years after its publication." Her next book, *Intimate Domain: Desire, Trauma, and Mimetic Theory* (2014), marks, according to another colleague, "a milestone in mimetic theory." In addition to a third book, a co-edited volume on the work of Ana-Maria Rizzuto, Martie has published 15 articles in peer-reviewed journals, with another three forthcoming, 13 book chapters, many of which were invited, and 2 articles on pedagogy, a scholarly output in our field more likely to be seen at an R1 than a regional comprehensive. Her excellence in research has been recognized with the James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award. She is eager to continue her research in retirement.

Martie's service to the institution and the profession has also been consequential. During her time as Director of the Women's Studies Program in the 1990's, she not only grew the undergraduate program

and initiated the CROW Forum lecture series for “current research on women,” she also initiated, planned, and sought approval for the Master of Arts in Women’s Studies. She has served as Chair of the UNI Coordinating Committee for Disability Accommodations, Chair of the Graduate Faculty, Chair of the Human Rights Panel, and Co-Chair for the Students-First capital campaign. She served as a member of the Gender Equity in Sports Committee, which participated in the development of a plan to achieve gender equity in intercollegiate athletics at UNI. Over the course of her career, she has also given over 100 presentations to community organizations on timely issues in the area of women, religion, and public policy. Martie has also made significant contributions to the profession. She has served on the Program Committee for the American Academy of Religion, and is currently President of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion. And, she is the “go to” faculty member for any and all time-consuming departmental tasks. A full list of Martie’s service to UNI, the community, and the profession would take at least another two pages of single-spaced prose. In recognition of her service, she received the Ross Nielsen Award for Outstanding Service, the UNI Diversity Matters Award, the Way Up Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in higher education, and the Regents’ Award for Faculty Excellence—to mention a few.

The documented work of Martie Reineke in teaching, research, and service is considerable and noteworthy. But, I would be remiss if I didn’t also mention the less obvious, though also influential work that Martie has done as a mentor. Martie has pored over numerous Master’s theses, engaging and challenging students to do their best thinking and writing. She has nurtured our majors’ intellectual curiosity and guided students through the process of applying for graduate school, editing numerous personal statements along the way. She has mentored peer mentors in her FYO classes. And, she has been a confidant, colleague, and mentor to numerous faculty members at UNI and elsewhere. In our department, if you want advice about pretty much anything, you seek out Martie, who will always give you her best thinking on the topic at hand. She has guided many untenured faculty—including me—through the tenure process and beyond. It is her interest in people, in helping others fulfill their academic potential as students and teachers and scholars that exemplifies her passion for, and dedication to, the work of the academy. Dr. Martha Reineke is officially retiring, but I suspect that this work—like all of her other work—will continue well into the future, when she takes on the new title of Dr. Reineke, Professor Emerita.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan E. Hill".

Susan E. Hill, Head
Department of Philosophy & World Religions