Memo

To: All academic departments and programs
From: Lori Kletzer
Date: August 21, 2012
Re: 2012-13 Search Guidelines for Tenure-Track and Replacement Searches

The following guidelines are intended to assist you and your colleagues in conducting faculty searches this year.

(1) Initiating a Search: The Academic Department/Program Search Plan

No ad may be placed or a search officially commenced until an Academic Department/Program Search Plan has been approved by the Dean of Faculty. The form is on page 6 of this document and is also available on the Dean of Faculty website in the Documents and Forms section, Search Guidelines 2012-13. Please submit the Search Plan and draft ad electronically, with the draft ad on its own separate page, in Word format. Please send to me directly, with a copy to Jenny Wood (jhwood@colby).

(2) Search Committees

All proposed search committee members must be specified in the required search plan. Search committees, in accord with Faculty Handbook guidelines, consist of members of the department/program plus at least one "unaffiliated" or "outside" faculty member. For searches where the position involves cross-program curricular concerns, please include in the search committee at least one faculty member from each of the relevant programs. This is particularly important for replacement searches. It is the committee chair’s responsibility to solicit the outside member(s) and, once s/he or they have agreed to serve, list them in the search plan. Once I have reviewed the search plan and approved the committee membership, I will send a letter of appointment to the outside member(s) with a copy to you. Students should be part of the search process, and should meet all on-campus finalists and attend their presentations. Students may attend meetings of the search committee, and their input should be considered along with that of the faculty search committee members.

(3) Equal Opportunity

We are committed to a proactive policy of recruitment to increase the diversity of all applicant pools. I will speak with search committee chairs about how each search should proceed in this regard. Every effort must be made to diversify the applicant pool and the pool of finalists for your position. I cannot overstate the importance of building the strongest and deepest possible applicant pool; we seek to hire the most qualified applicant from a diverse and talented pool.

The following language must appear in each ad:

Colby College is committed to equality and diversity and is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage inquiries from candidates who will contribute to the cultural and ethnic diversity of our college. Colby College does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, ancestry
or national origin, or age in employment or in our educational programs. For more information about the College, please visit our website: www.colby.edu

Consistent with our commitment to equal opportunity, no special preferences can be accorded inside candidates. Search committees will have to decide in a particular case whether an inside candidate is sufficiently competitive within an application pool to be considered a finalist for the position. If so, he/she should be given the same kind of on-campus interview schedule that you are arranging for your off-campus finalists. To ensure that insider status does not confer any unfair advantage, internal candidates should not be involved in any of the department’s search activities, including the on-campus interviews and presentations of competing candidates. Department members (and more broadly, search committee members) must not write letters of recommendation for internal candidates for positions within their department/program, although faculty members are free to write recommendations for visiting faculty for positions outside the College.

(4) Job Ad: template for material asked of applicants

For all academic faculty searches (tenure-track, temporary/replacement, continuing, visiting), the ad must specify the following material to be sent to the search committee: cover letter, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, statement of teaching philosophy and research interests. For tenure-track searches, the ad must further request a representative sample of current scholarship, e.g., reprints of recently published work, portfolio of artistic work, or a sample of creative works in progress. Departments and programs may optionally request transcripts and/or official summaries of teaching evaluations. Non tenure-track searches may optionally ask for evidence of scholarship and/or creative activity and/or teaching evaluations.

For all academic faculty searches, if an applicant pool contains an internal candidate, you cannot refer to Colby course evaluations to assess teaching of the internal candidates unless you have requested of ALL candidates summaries or other evidence of teaching evaluations. All candidates must be assessed on the same information, and unless you have requested evidence of teaching performance from all candidates, you may not use evidence that is a result of our own internal processes.

For all athletic coach and academic administrative support searches, the ad must specify the following: cover letter, resume, three letters of recommendation.

I strongly encourage you to adopt electronic submission of applicant files. Virtually all departments are using electronic submission. Email addresses can be established to help direct the submission of material.

(5) Active Recruitment and the applicant pool

Placing job ads in discipline-specific or general-purpose venues such as the Chronicle of Higher Education is necessary but not sufficient for attracting the best candidates and the most diverse applicant pool. As we all recognize, in some areas of the country small liberal arts colleges are less well known and are not always seen as desirable places for high quality faculty. Dissertation advisers at many Research I universities do not think of small liberal arts colleges, even highly selective ones, as the top places for their students. In addition, prospective applicants may have concerns about Colby’s location. To attract outstanding colleagues, we must face these challenges and take the initiative to build the strongest applicant pool possible. These efforts will include: i) soliciting nominations from department/program chairs and placement directors of leading graduate departments; ii) soliciting nominations from other in the discipline who might be in a position to identify strong candidates; iii) making personal phone calls or sending personal email messages as part of a strategic outreach to leaders in the discipline; iv) becoming aware of resources provided by your disciplinary professional societies.

The most successful searches involve well-organized department-wide efforts that extend beyond publishing an ad and evaluating responses to the ad. My office stands ready to assist; ultimately, it is the responsibility of all members of the department/program to actively recruit a strong and diverse pool of applicants.
(6) Recruitment Travel

Tenure-track searches: The Dean of Faculty’s office will pay for two committee members to travel to a conference or professional meeting for interviewing in a tenure-track search, provided that eight or more candidates are interviewed.

Visiting faculty searches: In searches for visiting faculty (e.g., sabbatical replacement), my office will pay for travel for: one committee member’s trip, in full; or two committee members can each apply for professional travel funds up to $600 (the former category C) and my office will cover reasonable travel expenses beyond $600.

(7) On-Campus Interviews

For all faculty searches, tenure-track/continuing or visiting, the proposed finalists must be approved in advance by my office. You must send candidates’ curricula vitae and cover letters to my office so that I can review this information and give permission for you to invite them to be finalists. Normally three finalists are invited to campus, but this can vary depending on the job market and other factors (e.g., if we are hiring in a highly competitive field, we may bring more than three finalists to campus to help insure that the search is successful). For replacement positions, typically two candidates are brought to campus for interviews. Again, you should contact me directly, in advance, regarding specific factors affecting your search. In all searches, it is expected that the finalists are the most qualified from a diverse pool of applicants. I ask for electronic submission of this information, in an email message to me.

The costs of entertaining finalists should be reasonably constrained. Meals on campus and small off-campus dinners (e.g., the candidate plus at most two members of the search committee) are expected; dining expenses deemed to exceed this guideline will not be fully reimbursed by my office and will be charged to your department/program. The reimbursement limit for meal expenses, per finalist, is $200.

(8) Salaries

NB: The salary figures given here are best estimates. Actual salaries for 2013-14 will not be confirmed by the Board until later in the academic year. Therefore, when you talk initially with candidates, please state that the salary is “in the range of” the figure given. Before making an offer to a candidate, you must contact me directly for a salary figure and for the full terms of the offer.

From most searches, new tenure-track faculty for 2013-14 will be hired at the entry assistant professor level. Starting salary for a new Ph.D. assistant professor will be $68,000. Those not finished with the Ph.D. by September 1, 2013 will be hired at the rank of instructor at a salary of $67,000. As a general practice, expect adherence to these salary levels and standard probationary periods.

It is possible to go above these starting salaries for fields in which hiring is particularly competitive. This may be done on a case-by-case basis. Also on a case-by-case basis, some candidates may be more appropriate for advanced assistant professor positions because of prior experience. Proposals to hire a candidate at an advanced level must be justified in the context of the current demographic profile of your department or program, programmatic curricular needs, and potential contributions to the Colby community.

The salaries for non-tenure track replacement faculty will be as follows: visiting assistant professor (Ph.D. in hand), $64,000; visiting instructor, $63,000; faculty fellow, $52,000.

(9) Making an Offer

All salaries and all other terms of an offer must be obtained directly from me prior to you conveying an offer.

Offers of employment may not be made until the full details of the offer, and explicit permission to make the offer, have been granted by the Dean of Faculty. It is the search committee chair’s responsibility to
communicate in advance with the Dean. Once the offer details and permission to convey the offer have been granted, the search committee chair makes the offer to the candidate.

I am eager to help you and your colleagues in your search process; the appointment of new faculty is one of the most important tasks that we undertake during the year. Please let me know if you have any questions about this process, and please do not hesitate to contact me.
ADVERTISING GUIDELINES FOR FACULTY SEARCHES

1. All ads must be reviewed and approved by the Dean of Faculty prior to any placement. No ad may be placed, or a search begun, without the Dean reviewing and approving an Academic Department/Program Search Plan (see p. 5 of this document). Please send the search plan and the job ad in electronic format to Lori Kletzer (Lori.Kletzer@colby), with a copy to Jenny Wood (jwood@colby). Communications with prospective applicants may occur only after a position has been posted.

2. A list of suggested ad placement(s) shall be included in the search plan submitted to the Dean’s Office with the proposed job ad. The cost of placing the ad in the identified publication(s) shall be included as well. The list of suggested ad placements shall include deadline dates for placement and state whether a line, display or Internet ad is being proposed. Once the Dean’s Office has approved the wording and the format of the ad, notification will be sent to the search committee chair and the department/program secretary.

3. All open positions, including those for a single course, shall be posted on the Colby website by the Dean’s Office, subsequent to the approval process, even if it is likely that the position will be filled by someone whom we have employed previously. Normally, there will be a minimum of a 7-day posting prior to offering a position to a candidate. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Dean of Faculty on a case-by-case basis.

4. All line and Internet ads will be placed by the department/program secretary.

5. All tenure-track ads will be placed in Black Issues and Hispanic Outlook online by the Dean’s Office.

6. The Dean’s Office will place ads on the Colby employment and the HigherEdjobs.com websites.

7. All ads placed by the department/program will require a purchase order number, which may be secured from Jenny Wood. The department/program secretary will be responsible for sending a copy of the ad to Jenny Wood for the College’s files.

STANDARD EQUAL OPPORTUNITY WORDING FOR ALL ADS:

Colby College is committed to equality and diversity and is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage inquiries from candidates who will contribute to the cultural and ethnic diversity of our college. Colby College does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, or age in employment or in our educational programs. For more information about the College, please visit our website: www.colby.edu
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM SEARCH PLAN

NB: This form must be sent to Dean of Faculty prior to or when submitting ad copy for approval.

Date: ........................................................................................................................................

Department/Program: ..............................................................................................................

Position Being Filled: ..................................................................................................................

Search Committee Members (including outside member; to include a woman or person of color):

The Dean’s office will place ads on the Colby employment and the HigherEdjobs.com websites. The Dean’s office will also place all tenure-track search ads in Black Issues and Hispanic Outlook online. All other ad placements are the responsibility of the department/program, once this search plan is approved by the Dean.

List all ad placements, list-serves, recruitment letters to graduate schools, and other means of disseminating the job ad, for which the department/program is responsible:

Describe specific efforts to be made to seek applicants who are persons of color, women, and members of other socially subordinate groups that are under-represented at Colby:

Describe plans for interviewing at professional meetings, conferences, or other professional venues (include meeting[s], dates, location[s]):

Describe potential for involvement of this position with interdisciplinary programs (or any other departments or programs), including plans to engage relevant faculty from those programs or departments in the search process:

Name......................................................................................................................... Date