



April 20, 2009

Dear Colleague:

As you may know, Central Michigan University established an Endowed Chair in American Government in honor of two of its most distinguished alumni: former U.S. Senator Robert Griffin and his wife Marjorie Griffin. The primary purpose of the Endowed Chair is to stimulate undergraduate student interest and participation in government. The Griffin Endowed Chair Search Committee is now seeking nominations (including self-nominations) for our fourth chair.

The individual selected will be a member of the Department of Political Science. The individual will have had a distinguished public service career and a strong interest and knowledge of Michigan politics. The career of the individual selected will be one characterized through civility and principle with an ability to teach undergraduate course in Michigan politics and policy.

I have enclosed a description of the responsibilities and expectations of this position and welcome any recommendations or nominations that you might offer for consideration. The candidate review process will begin May 11, 2009 and the appointment effective date will be August 15, 2009.

If you would like to nominate an individual for the position, please mail or email a name(s) and background information to:

Griffin Search Committee c/o
Dr. Rick S. Kurtz, Chair
Department of Political Science
247 Anspach Hall
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859
Rick.S.Kurtz@cmich.edu

If you have any questions please call 989-774-3442 or email me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick S. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick S. Kurtz
Professor and Chair Political Science

**THE ROBERT AND MARJORIE GRIFFIN ENDOWED CHAIR
IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

The Central Michigan University Political Science Department Search Committee is seeking nominees with a distinguished record of public service to fill the Robert and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government. The chair was established to honor two of the university's most distinguished alumni for their extraordinary public service to the State of Michigan and the nation as a whole. The purpose of the chair is to stimulate undergraduate student interest and involvement in American government.

Candidates for this position will have a distinguished record of public service and a reputation for principled and civil leadership. They will also have a solid knowledge of Michigan politics and provide evidence of their ability to develop and organize quality public policy forums and to teach a political seminar to undergraduate students. The position will require the candidate to teach one semester-long political science seminar per term, develop two public policy forums per academic year, and promote student and faculty research and scholarship on issues of importance to Michigan. The position offers a three-year contract and the salary is competitive. The position is considered less than full time thereby allowing the chair to continue with other career interests.

Review of applications will begin on May 11, 2009. All materials should be submitted by this date. Applicants should provide a letter of interest describing his/her credentials and experiences relevant to this position, along with a resume and three references to:

Griffin Search Committee c/o
Dr. Rick S. Kurtz, Chair
Department of Political Science
247 Anspach Hall
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Rick.S.Kurtz@cmich.edu

Central Michigan University is a comprehensive state university, with over 800 faculty serving an on-campus enrollment of approximately 20,000 students. The main campus is situated on a 480 acre site in Mt. Pleasant, a city of 25,000 residents located in the heart of Michigan.

CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (<http://www.cmich.edu/aaeo>).

GRIFFIN ENDOWED CHAIR CRITERIA

- A distinguished record of public service and a reputation for principled and civil leadership.
- Expert knowledge of Michigan politics and policy.
- Evidence of ability to develop and organize two high quality public policy forums per year.
- Evidence of the ability to teach one semester-long Michigan politics fall course and a Michigan policy spring course; as demonstrated through prior teaching experience or other related experience.
- A minimum of an applicable bachelor degree with an appropriate master's level degree preferred.
- The ability to promote student and faculty research and scholarship on issues of importance to Michigan.
- The willingness to engage students in the classroom through guest speaker appearances.
- The willingness to collaborate in laying the foundation for an on-line Central Michigan University housed Michigan journal of politics and policy.

PREPARING THE PATH FOR THE FOURTH GRIFFIN CHAIR

The fourth Griffin Endowed Chair will have the benefit on building upon a found laid through the outstanding contributions of the prior three chairs. These contributions have included, but are not limited to 1) the development of master course syllabi in Michigan politics and policy, and 2) the institutionalization of the fall and spring semester Griffin Policy Forums.

Master Course Syllabi

Available at: http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/griffin/course_descriptions.htm. The master course syllabi provide a robust instructional template for the next Griffin Endowed Chair. Additional worthy traditions established by past Griffin Chairs have included bringing an array of guest speakers into the classroom, and a “Day at the State Capitol.” The Griffin Chair taught courses have been highly popular always reaching the full enrollment cap of 22 students.

Former Griffin Chairs

Mr. Craig Ruff

Mr. Ruff was the first holder of the Robert and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Chair. Mr. Ruff attended the University of Michigan, where he earned a B.A. in political science, with honors, and a master's degree in public policy. Mr. Ruff served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Public Sector Consultants in Lansing, Michigan. Before joining Public Sector Consultants, Inc., Mr. Ruff spent eleven years in Michigan's executive office. He first served as the Special Assistant to the Governor for Human Services to Governor William G. Milliken, and then as Executive Assistant to Lieutenant Governor James H. Brickley.

Mr. William “Bill” Ballenger

Mr. Ballenger is a former state representative and state senator, an ex-state racing commissioner, and director of the Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulation. Mr. Ballenger also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare in the administration of President Gerald R. Ford. Mr. Ballenger holds a B.A. degree *magna cum laude* from Princeton University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In addition to editing and publishing the "[*Inside Michigan Politics*](#)" newsletter, he also hosts a radio show and gives speeches and quotes in many notable places.

Mr. Gary Peters

Recently elected to the U.S. House of Representatives—Michigan's 9th District—the former Michigan Bureau of State Lottery Commissioner Gary Peters brought years of political and business experience to his role as the third Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government at CMU. As a former state senator, city councilman and candidate for Michigan attorney general, Peters shared his nuts-and-bolts knowledge of public service with students at Central Michigan. Mr. Peters holds a B.A. in political science from Alma College, a MBA from University of Detroit and a JD from Wayne State University.

Past Griffin Policy Forums

With a theme of bi-partisan discussion of politics and policy issues of major interest to Central Michigan students and the broader citizenry, the Griffin Policy Forums have become an

increasingly popular fall and spring venue. So much that the original CMU auditorium venue accommodating 150 guests was replaced with 1,000 guest capacity Plachta Auditorium. Building upon the legacy of past Griffin Chairs it is anticipated that the next chair will continue this tradition of forum excellence.

Forum Title	Date
<u>Election 2008:</u> What will happen on November 4th and how will the results impact Michigan?	October 22, 2008
<u>Can Climate Change Heat Up Michigan's Economy?</u>	April 9, 2008
<u>Now What? Managing the Budget Crisis</u>	Nov. 6, 2007
<u>Does Michigan Need a New Constitution?</u>	April 11, 2007
<u>November 7: What Will Happen?</u>	October 25, 2006
<u>Affirmative Action/Racial Preferences: Should They Be Banned?</u>	March 29, 2006
<u>Michigan's Economy: Can it be Saved?</u>	October 26, 2005
<u>Multiple Threats to Michigan's Water</u>	April 19, 2005
<u>Campaign 2004: What Will Happen?</u>	October 19, 2004
<u>Future of Gambling in Michigan</u>	April 14, 2004
<u>Is the Michigan Judiciary Being Corrupted by Money & Elections?</u>	November 20, 2003
<u>Women in Power in Lansing</u>	March 26, 2003
<u>Investing in Higher Education in Michigan</u>	November 20, 2002
<u>Term Limits</u>	April 18, 2002
<u>Political Civility</u>	April 12, 2001