

February 8, 2008
Batalden Faculty Scholar Program
Dr. Rosemary Link,
Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dear Dr. Link

Enclosed is a preliminary proposal for faculty involvement in the Batalden Faculty Scholar Program. This proposal is intended to illustrate the kinds of things that might be undertaken over the next three years.

Discussions have been held with the faculty involved, but no formal approval of this document has been given by any of those mentioned herein. If this direction looks promising to the committee, we would like to have further discussions on ways to make this proposal of greater value to those involved and to the Augsburg Community.

Augsburg College has an opportunity to develop a national reputation in attempting to connect the theoretical elements of philosophy with the needs of our modern society for guidance on applied ethical issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Milo Schield, Professor
Department of Business Administration

Batalden Faculty Scholar Program in Applied Ethics
Faculty Proposal

Approach and Goals:

A major goal of the Batalden Applied Ethics project is to fund an Endowed Chair in Ethics at Augsburg College. If this Endowed Chair in Ethics is located in the Philosophy Department then much needs to be done. Many outside the department may see Philosophy as lacking a coherent viewpoint on Ethics with some in Philosophy arguing that it is impossible to obtain an “ought” from an “is.” Thus other departments and professions have developed their own sets of ethical standards in order to make ethical judgments. This proposal works at strengthening: (1) the relationship within Philosophy between Ethics, and the other elements of Philosophy, (2) the relationship between Philosophy and the other disciplines and professions that have developed their own standards and (3) the understanding of faculty and students in deriving a standard of ethics that is in agreement with human nature and the human condition today.

This proposal is preliminary; it has not been approved in detail by those involved. If approved, this proposal would be developed further in consultation with the individuals involved, the committee and the administration. This proposal has these goals:

1. to prepare an academic climate at Augsburg that supports an Endowed Chair in Ethics in Philosophy. To involve Dr. Paul Batalden in this process.
2. to generate scholarly research on ethical issues that present new approaches for deriving a standard for the good from the human condition.
3. to develop teaching materials showing how ethical principles flow from our humanity -- regardless of whether this humanity be natural or God-given.
4. to generate national awareness of Augsburg’s commitment to applied ethics as an academic goal and as a basis for action in our personal and professional lives.
5. to formulate an on-going project that will involve the individual appointed to the Batalden Chair in Ethics. The goal of the project is to develop an intellectually respectable basis for forming generalizations in the physical sciences that can lead to sound generalizations concerning human nature in the social sciences and humanities, and provide a stronger basis for ethical standards and principles.

Details of this proposal are attached. Activities are organized by academic year. Student participation and summer seminars for faculty are integral parts of this proposal.

If Augsburg is to match the high expectations that the Batalden family has for the success of their endowment, the college should be willing to challenge itself to reflect critically on the most central elements of Ethics from the broadest context. This proposal may not succeed in achieving the many goals it has, but the lack of success will not be due to having been timid in setting the goals. And if we are successful, Augsburg College will have moved to the very forefront among liberal colleges in taking on the challenge of making applied ethics more respectable within higher education and more valuable to the professions and to individuals in their personal and professional lives.

2008-09:

- By March 8, 2008, Professor Milo Schield (Business), Professor Marcus Fuehrer (Philosophy) and Professor Mark Engebretson (Physics) submit an NEH application by 3/8/2008 for a summer institute or seminar in 2009 reviewing the history of induction. Dr. David Kelley, author of “The Art of Reasoning,” and Dr. Douglas Rasmussen, author of “Liberty and Nature: An Aristotelian Defense of Liberal Order,” are invited to lead this seminar. NEH awards for seminars will range between \$45,000 and \$120,000 in outright funds for a grant period of twelve months. Awards for institutes range from \$80,000 to \$200,000 in outright funds for a grant period of fifteen months. For more details on seminars and institutes, see www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/seminars.html
- Professor Bruce Reichenbach (Philosophy) is the Batalden Faculty scholar. He receives a 3 FTE course release to develop teaching materials on the relationship between our psychology (the nature of our minds) and our ethical responsibilities (e.g., to be honest and act with integrity).
- Dr. Paul H. Batalden is invited to speak on the relationship between the work of the modern quality pioneer, Dr. W. Edwards Deming, and the improvement of health care. See www.jointcommission.org/Codman/Batalden.htm. This will involve talks at the local chapter of the American Statistical Association, the local association of statistical educators and the faculty at Augsburg.
- Professor Marcus Fuehrer (Philosophy) leads a senior colloquium on “Contemplation.” He also leads a faculty discussion during the year comparing the life of action with the life of contemplation using the writings of Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas. Students will be invited to apply to this seminar or special course; those accepted will receive a stipend.
- Professor David Apolloni (Philosophy) leads faculty discussions on the history of Aristotle’s claims involving the Law of Non-Contradiction. Students will be invited to apply to this seminar or special course; those accepted will receive a stipend.
- Professor Milo Schield (Business) initiates discussions in Philosophy on the problem of induction. Why has philosophy been so unsuccessful in developing generalizations involving human nature? Why has philosophy been so unsuccessful in answering Hume’s critique of empirical generalizations that result in our saying that the sun causes heat and that the earth’s gravity is what attracts both the moon and the apple downward? Why has philosophy been so unsuccessful in helping other disciplines avoid the anti-intellectual extremes of naive relativism and belligerent absolutism?
- By March 8, 2009, Professor Mark Engebretson (Physics), Professor Mark Fuehrer (Philosophy) and Professor Milo Schield (Business) propose an NEH summer institute in the summer of 2010 on induction and the philosophy of Science. Professor Ronald Giere, prior President of the American Philosophy of Science Association, will be invited to lead this discussion.

2009-10:

- Professor Bruce Reichenbach (Philosophy) teaches a course in Ethics using the materials he developed during the previous academic year. Students will be invited to apply to take this course; those accepted will receive a stipend.
- Professors Lee Clarke (Business), John Knight (Religion), Gary Hesser and President Paul Pribbenow leads discussions on applied ethics without philosophy. [The designation of the Batalden Faculty Scholar and the allocation of the three release FTE for 2009-10 are yet to be determined.] Philosophy has developed numerous standards – indeed, all too many competing standards – for the good. Philosophers advocating different standards of the good include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Bentham, Mill, Sidgwick, Kant, Rawls and Nozick. Without an agreement among philosophers on the appropriate standard for the good, those in other disciplines must develop other standards in order to discuss ethical issues. For example sociologists may focus on “who gains and who loses” in evaluating a new policy or the presence of a given social and legal order. Sometimes the losers may be innocent victims who are deprived of their goods and even their humanity; sometimes the losers may be totally deserving (e.g., pirates and criminals). Nevertheless, this “who gains vs. who loses” approach provides some guidance in thinking about ethical issues. Another example involves the use of profit in business as a measure of value, success and even goodness. Again, there are defects in this standard, but it provides a starting point for thinking about ethical issues.
- Dr. Paul H. Batalden is invited to speak on the ethical issues involved in providing quality medical care while trying to control medical costs. This will involve talks at an Augsburg Faculty Retreat and at various venues at ACTC colleges.
- Professor Mark Engebretson (Physics), Professor Larry Crockett (Computer Science) and Professor Milo Schield (Business) initiate discussions among faculty and students in the physical sciences on why generalizations in the observational sciences have been so successful – so resilient in the face of new knowledge – and why they have been so unsuccessful in the humanities and in the social sciences.
- By March 8, 2010, Professor Mark Engebretson (Physics), Professor Mark Fuhrer (Philosophy) and Professor Milo Schield (Business) propose an NEH summer institute in the summer of 2011 on “Using Induction to Derive Ethical Principles based on the Human Condition.” Leaders to be determined at that time.
- Professor Milo Schield (Business) leads department-based reviews of the ethical standards for various professional organizations. Departments will examine the ethical principles on which these standards are based. This review might lead to a publication supported by the AACU. Alternatively, Professor Milo Schield leads an honors course in examining the problems of induction – the problem of forming generalizations that are useful.

2010-11:

- Professor Milo Schield (Business) is the Batalden Faculty Scholar. He receives a 3 FTE course release to teach a course in Business Ethics (BUS/PHI 300) using teaching materials on the relationship between the logic of inductive reasoning and ethical standards with applications to rights and duties of those in business. All too often the moral obligations of those in business are reduced to one standard – Don't break a law or don't get caught. This overly simplistic approach to applied ethics is unacceptable. Just as those in business may have fiduciary responsibilities or may contract themselves to guarantee the performance of others (surety), business organizations must examine the ethics of providing investors with a statement of risks when raising capital but failing to do so on an ongoing basis. As for individual managers, they must be encouraged to develop and maintain an ethical code that goes beyond professionalism that encourages them to speak out on issues that affect the well-being of the stakeholders for their business.
- Dr. Carol Geary Schneider, President of the AACU, is invited to speak at Augsburg College on the challenges facing higher education from those who think that knowledge is just a social construct and that honesty and integrity in academia are just arbitrary requirements by those in a position of power.
- Dr. Paul H. Batalden is invited to speak at a faculty summer institute on how ethical principles in medical care are related to broader ethical principles.
- Professor Milo Schield (Business) leads an honors course in examining the problems of induction – the problem of forming generalizations in the humanities that are robust and useful.
- Other activities will be determined as the project develops.

BUDGET:

Income: A 1 million fund yields \$50K/year. \$10K for the Batalden Ethics Speaker in the spring, \$15K for 3 FTE course releases and \$5K for student seminars and incentives which leaves \$20K for NEH-type summer seminars.

2008-2009:

Student stipends: \$5,000. To encourage highly qualified students to take Professor Fuhrer's fall senior colloquium on "Contemplation" or Professor Apolloni's spring seminar on The Law of Non-Contradiction: the Pre-Socratics, Plato and Aristotle.

Teacher course release: \$15,000 for 3 FTE at \$5,000 per FTE for an adjunct faculty replacement.

Summer seminar: \$20,000. Hopefully this will be funded in part by an NEH grant.

2009-2010:

Student stipends: \$5,000. To encourage highly qualified students to take senior seminars in Sociology, Urban Studies, Social Work, Education or Business that focus on applied ethical issues without requiring a philosophical connection.

Teacher course release: \$15,000 for 3 FTE at \$5,000 per FTE for an adjunct faculty replacement.

Summer seminar: \$20,000. Hopefully this will be funded by an NEH grant.

2009-2010:

Student stipends: \$5,000. To encourage highly qualified students to take senior seminars in Philosophy or Business that focus on applied ethical issues and that involve a strong philosophical connection.

Teacher course release: \$15,000 for 3 FTE at \$5,000 per FTE for an adjunct faculty replacement.

Summer seminar: \$20,000. Hopefully this will be funded in part by an NEH grant.

Personnel: Project Coordinator:

Professor Milo Schield is the project coordinator. As Principle Investigator on the Statistical Literacy grant by the W. M. Keck Foundation to Augsburg College, Milo has considerable experience in managing large scale projects that are entrepreneurial.

Although Professor Schield's PhD is in Space Physics, he has taken undergraduate courses in philosophy at the University of St. Thomas and graduate courses in philosophy at the University of Minnesota. He is a member of the American Philosophy of Science Association and has given talks on philosophical topics in the US and in Europe (see below). He has taught Business Ethics and Critical Thinking at Augsburg.

In 2006, he encouraged Augsburg College to submit an ambitious philosophical proposal to the W. M. Keck Foundation. Although potentially interesting, the foundation requested more evidence of institutional support and of completed work before considering such an ambitious proposal.

Project Background: Attachment

Schild, M (2004). **Resolving Three Key Problems in the Humanities.** International Journal of the Humanities.

The International Journal of the Humanities is a peer-refereed journal published annually. Full papers submitted for publication are refereed by the Associate Editors through an anonymous referee process. Papers presented at the Second International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Monash University Centre in Prato, Italy, 20-23 July 2004.

Copy at www.StatLit.org/pdf/2004SchieldNDIH.pdf .

Long Description: The intellectual disarray in the humanities is well-known and longstanding. Recent articles have noted this disarray (section 1). While post-modernism and cultural relativism may be involved, the lack of objective standards for ideas concerning the human condition seems to provide a more fundamental explanation for this disarray (section 2). The problem of objectivity is argued to include the problem of unobservables: the Achilles' heel of the social sciences despite their insistent focus on observables to obtain objectivity (section 4). The lack of objectivity and the problem of unobservables are argued to affect the physical sciences (section 5) and to involve the problem of induction (section 6). This paper argues that Popper's falsifiability approach to objectivity and Kuhn's view of scientific progress may inadvertently undermine scientific literacy and elevate pseudo-science (section 7). The paper recommends reviewing the use of induction involving unobservables in the observational hard sciences and using their approach as a model for objectivity and valid induction in the humanities (section 8). The humanities are argued to be like the 'canary in the coal mine' because they are more sensitive to the problem of unobservables, the lack of objective standards and the failure to solve or resolve the problem of induction. This paper argues that a solution to the triple-crown problem of cognition – the problems of objectivity, unobservables and induction – could bring about a new direction in the sciences and the humanities and a second renaissance (section 9). A call for support is issued.