



**Maxwell C. Weiner Distinguished Professor of Humanities  
Office of the Dean of Arts, Sciences, and Business**

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Search, Dean  
College of General Studies  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing to be considered for the position Dean of the College of General Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. I am now in the Office of the Dean of Arts, Sciences, and Business, as the Maxwell C. Weiner Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Missouri University of Science and Technology, part of the multi-campus University of Missouri system. I am engaged in faculty development, center management, student success programming, building collaborative relationships, and contributing to diversity and inclusion initiatives. I conduct faculty seminars to mentor junior professors in various departments, conduct professional development workshops, and assist the administration of the new Center for Science, Technology, and Society and planning/grant writing for an Arts and Humanities Lab. I also contribute to external funding campaigns and participate in community outreach for the humanities and arts. Previous to serving in the University of Missouri system, I served as Director of the School of Humanities and Chair of the American Studies Program (B.A, M.A., Ph.D.), and founding Director of the centers for Pennsylvania Culture Studies, and Holocaust and Jewish Studies at Penn State University. As School Director, I served on Academic Council and worked on policy formation for the entire college alongside schools of public affairs, engineering and technology, and education and behavioral sciences. I have experience in an "Extended University" from my supervision as Director of the School of Humanities of the Schuylkill campus which was viewed as a feeder to upper division programs at Penn State. In this letter, I give you additional background on why I believe I have skills and experience to be a dynamic and effective Dean of the College of General Studies.

At Penn State Harrisburg, in my role as Director of the School of Humanities and founding Director of the American Studies doctoral program and an "integrated undergraduate-graduate" BA-MA program in addition to two certificate programs in heritage and museum studies and folklore and ethnography. As an interdisciplinary field, American Studies included coursework from humanities, social sciences, and public affairs, and my responsibility was to integrate them into a cohesive unit. I have been deeply involved in developing the excellence of the faculty and recruiting and supporting promising students to the college. The director's position included oversight of multiple majors, minors, and certificates on two campuses (Harrisburg and Schuylkill); budget management and both external and internal fundraising; supervision of faculty, staff, and student assistants; supervision of art studios, galleries, and theaters; policy formation and implementation as

part of the college's Academic Council; staffing in and consultation with the Russel Horn Learning Center and Center for Teaching Excellence on strategies for student and faculty success; advising for all incoming students in the humanities; leading the strategic planning process for the School and serving on the strategic planning steering committee for the college; scheduling and hiring for the curriculum; development of e-learning courses in collaboration with World Campus and policy formation for the e-learning cooperative among multiple campuses; creating proposals for changing programs and courses and creating new ones; coordination of service-learning and internship programs for the School and participation in the policy-forming task force on service learning; management of tenure and promotion process and annual evaluation of faculty and staff; outreach to alumni and community; provision of reports to trustees and board of advisers. I secured funds for scholarships and fellowships in the program and successfully created additional lines as a "signature program" of the university. I developed relations with urban NGOs and state government for the centers and our students and faculty (e.g., internship programs in humanities organizations, organization of conferences, and outreach courses through the Downtown Center of Penn State and Continuing Education). Under my leadership, the School received funding for the first time, for example, from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and House of Representatives Bipartisan Management Committee.

As evidence of my administrative abilities, I can cite honors and awards I have received for academic leadership from Penn State and international learned and professional organizations. Most recently I received the Doctoral Education Award from the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools, Kenneth Goldstein Memorial Award for Academic Leadership from the American Folklore Society, the Mary Turpie Prize for Program Development from the American Studies Association, and the Graduate Program Leadership Award from Penn State University. I also have a record of scholarship that I believe can be a model of achievement for faculty and students: I have been the author or editor of over 40 books and 200 articles, many on issues of higher education, and have been invited to speak all over the world on my arts and humanities research. Indeed, I have also engaged scholarship in my administrative and teaching roles, having written on interdisciplinary pedagogy and organization. I have been involved in strategic planning, curriculum design and revision (both for general education across the university in addition to locally in the college), and engaged in teaching, research, and service throughout my administrative career. I designed the School's online delivery program and established what we called "diversity-focused" courses such as Ethnic America and Seminar in Race and Ethnicity. As you will be able to tell, I am concerned particularly with student culture, curricular reform, and diversity issues on campus in a public state university setting with its mission of providing access, opportunity, and advancement to build a civil society as well as benefit individuals. I have extended this view in consulting experiences to find solutions to institutional problems at other universities, including in the United States, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, University of Iowa, Roger Williams University, University at Mount Union, and Trinity College, and abroad at Hong Kong University, Beijing Normal University, and the Latvian Academy of Culture.

These experiences and credentials prepare me, I believe, to lead your college. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you need additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon J. Bronner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Simon".

Simon J. Bronner, Ph.D.  
Maxwell C. Weiner Distinguished Professor of Humanities  
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