

Faculty Senate Resolution 2008-04
The Department of English
September 12, 2008

Recommendation of *Emeritus* Status for Dr. Douglas Kirke Gordon

Whereas Dr. Douglas Kirke Gordon, Professor of English, arrived at Christopher Newport College in 1980 and devoted his entire professional career to selflessly serving Christopher Newport University, its Department of Basic Studies, Department of English, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences until his retirement at the close of the spring semester, 2009; and

Whereas Dr. Gordon, an inspirational teacher and visionary leader, whose courses have registered in his students an abiding love of literature, has been appropriately recognized for his teaching excellence with such awards as SGA Professor of the Year, the Music Club Teacher of the Year, CNU nominee for the State of Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, and the Alumni Society Distinguished Leadership and Service Award, has been instrumental in bringing to CNU national scholars, artists, and writers, including Barry Moser, Toni Cade Bambara, and Donald McCaig, has a record of initiating opportunities that have provided CNU students with a rounded education and recognition beyond the classroom, serving 10 years as CNU's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, has been inducted into CNU's Athletic Hall of Fame, has chaired the Football Feasibility Committee and was the only academic to chair a search committee for a head coach, has acted as advisor to Alpha Chi and the National English Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta, and has founded the CNU chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership honor society; and

Whereas Dr. Gordon has contributed unparalleled service to the university at all levels, has tirelessly served on countless university committees and the Faculty Senate, twice served as chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee, the forerunner of the Faculty Senate, has distinguished himself as Chair of the Department of Basic Studies, Director of Freshman Composition, and Chair of the English Department from 1986-1990, has ably and with a commitment to fairness and academic excellence served as Associate Dean and then Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 2001 to 2009, and has through his actions and words powerfully and eloquently championed liberal learning, most notably chairing the Task Force on Curriculum and Academic Life that produced the richly engaging liberal learning core curriculum that will shape generations of CNU students, and has played a key role in the recruitment, hiring, and development of the university's future faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and

Whereas Dr. Gordon has distinguished himself through his numerous articles and lectures on teaching writing, bluegrass and country music, cynegetica, and dogs in literature, earning him the sobriquet Dr. Dog, has given time and talent to CNU Theater by playing roles in three productions, Oedipus Rex, Hamlet, and The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, has served for many years as the genial and humorous host of CNU Music's "Holiday Happenings," continues as Dean to champion scholarly endeavors, and under his leadership initiated and directed a faculty development grant program, affectionately known as DOG grants (Dean's Office Grants), that has led to an unprecedented number of faculty articles, books, and scholarly presentations and performances, and has provided opportunities for students to present their research and writing by creating and supporting the Undergraduate and Graduate Research Council and its Paideia Conference; and

Whereas Dr. Gordon not only served the university with distinction but also the community as a volunteer and board member for the Peninsula Literacy Council, Habitat for Humanity, and the Virginia Educator's Credit Union; and

Whereas Dr. Gordon has with distinction and integrity devoted his career to enriching the academy and the lives of students, faculty, and staff for nearly three decades, the Department of English unanimously recommends to the Faculty Senate, the Provost, and the President of Christopher Newport University that we continue Dr. Gordon's professional association with the university beyond the date of his retirement; therefore be it

Resolved that the Department of English and Faculty Senate hereby request that the title of *Distinguished Professor Emeritus* be conferred upon Douglas Kirke Gordon, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., with all of the rights, honors, and privileges attendant to such status.

Jean S. Filetti, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair

Scott Pollard
Associate Professor

Jay Paul, Ph.D.
Professor

Tracey Schwarze, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Roberta Rosenberg, Ph.D.
Professor

Rebecca Wheeler, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Marsha Sprague, Ed.D.
Professor

Sharon Rowley, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Kara Keeling, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Jessica Clark, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Terry Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Patricia Hopkins, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Roark Mulligan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Margarita Marinova, Ph.D.
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Peter Snow, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Mary Wright, Ph.D.
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Jennifer Cornette, M.A.
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Linda Gordon, M.A.
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Meredith Bartron, M.A.
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Mary Healy, M.A.
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Imogene Bunch, M.A.
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James Cornette, M.A.
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