

RICHARD P. BAEPLER
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES

**A ROTATING FOUR-YEAR APPOINTMENT HONORING
OUTSTANDING TEACHERS IN THE HUMANITIES FIELDS WITHIN
THE UNIVERSITY**

PURPOSE OF THE PROFESSORSHIP

The Richard P. Baepler Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities is endowed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a gift from Dr. Walter H. and Pauline Scaer Wente. It honors the informed vision, academic leadership, and Christian service of Dr. Richard P. Baepler at Valparaiso University from 1954 until his retirement in 1992.

The Baepler Professorship is a rotating four-year appointment honoring outstanding teachers in the humanities at Valparaiso University. It aims to advance interdisciplinary and integrative study of the humanities, particularly in general education, in accord with Valparaiso University's mission statement and its strategic emphasis on compelling interdisciplinary education.

Further, the position aims to enhance the Baepler Professor's teaching, scholarship, and campus intellectual leadership regarding significant topics in the humanities.

Finally, the professorship also advances professional development and thoughtful academic discussion among other Valparaiso faculty members in an area of the Baepler Professor's interest and expertise. The Baepler Professor promotes interdisciplinary teaching, course development, and scholarship in the University through leadership of the Wente Faculty Seminar.

TERMS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Baepler Professor must be a tenured faculty member in a humanities discipline within the College of Arts and Sciences or Christ College holding at least an associate professor rank. (Humanities disciplines here include those who work in the history, theory, and criticism of the fine arts and the social sciences.)

The Baepler Professor will be appointed by the Provost for a four-year term. No individual may hold the rotating Baepler Professorship more than once.

The Baepler Professor will teach no more than 15 course sections during the four-year appointment. No more than one semester may consist of no teaching. The holder will also not be eligible for a sabbatical or research leave (for faculty who have been selected as a University Research Professorship) during their four-year term.

The Baepler Professor's home department/college will receive funding from the Professorship for a full-time visiting hire during the third year of the Professorship to help offset the loss of the holder's teaching during their appointment.

The Baepler Professorship will support up to two highly qualified student research assistants at the holder's discretion.

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APPLICATION AND SELECTION

The Baepler Professor is selected through an open application process. A candidate will submit their curriculum vitae, a statement of qualifications and commitment, a proposal for personal faculty development and possible topics for the Wentz Faculty Seminar, and a statement of potential outcomes to the Office of the Provost. The candidate will also submit one on-campus and one external letter of support. Proposals for seminars that serve as seedbeds for interdisciplinary courses and programs are especially encouraged.

The approximate time line for the selection process is as follows:

- Announcement and invitation for applications - October 24
- Deadline for submission of all application materials - November 27
- Provost's announcement of Baepler appointment - December 15

A Selection and Oversight Committee consisting of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of Christ College, and the Assistant/Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs will review all applications and make recommendations to the Provost, who will make the appointment.

ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Baepler Professor will engage in a rigorous course of personal reading and study across disciplines in the defined area of their work, with the intention of expanding expertise and engaging approaches to the subject relevant to teaching and interdisciplinary exchange at Valparaiso.

The Baepler Professor will produce at least two articles and submit them to peer-reviewed journals during or within one year of completion of their term.

The Baepler Professor will organize and lead the Wentz Faculty Seminar involving no more than a dozen Valparaiso faculty members on a topic of their choosing. The Wentz Seminar would most likely be held in the second or third year of the Professor's term and require readings, regular discussions, and defined outcomes relevant to the participants' own professional development and teaching. Each faculty participant in the seminar will receive a stipend of \$1,000. The intent is for an intensive seminar with approximately 30-40 hours of actual "seat time." The holder of the professorship will, however, have latitude to propose what they believe will be the most effective timing and format for the seminar.

The Baepler Professor will support at least one student-related activity, such as an undergraduate research project, a senior honors project, or an upper-level seminar course on a topic related to the holder's interdisciplinary investigations.

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At or near the conclusion of their term, the Baepler Professor will present a public campus lecture or program presenting the substance of their work during the professorship. This could be an open departmental colloquium, a Christ College Symposium, or other appropriate event.

EVALUATION

The Baepler Professor will submit to the Provost a one-page report no later than June 1 of each of the first three years of their appointment, summarizing the holder's activities during the previous academic year.

The Baepler Professor will submit to the Provost a longer report no later than June 1 of the final year of their appointment that details the major accomplishments during the holder's term, expected outcomes over the next 2-4 years, and the impact on the holder's professional development.

Potential applicants should direct questions regarding the Baepler Professorship to Associate Provost Lissa Yogan.

COMPENSATION

For Baepler Professor:

- Honorarium - \$12,000 (\$3,000 per year)
 - Research Expenses - \$8,000 (\$2,000 per year with no rollover)
 - Hospitality, copying, seminar meals - \$2,000 (\$500 per year)
- Total \$22,000***

For others:

- Stipends for 12 faculty members in Wentz Seminar - \$12,000 (\$1,000 each)
 - Stipends for student research assistants - \$1,000 (\$500 each)
- Total \$13,000***

Additionally, the endowment will provide appropriate funds for the holder's home department/college to hire a full-time visiting appointment during the third year of the professorship. Figures are current as of August 2023.