

To the Center for Teaching and Learning,

I am writing to apply for a Mellon Inclusive Teaching and Advising Grant. With the grant, I propose to investigate, with other members of the Philosophy Department, ways in which our Department can actively foster a more inclusive learning environment for students of diverse racial backgrounds. Philosophy as a discipline continues to underrepresent people of color, and we know that students of color have not always felt actively included in Trinity's community and classrooms. For these reasons, among others, I propose to investigate how Trinity's Philosophy classrooms and Department activities can be made more inclusive. This project is still in its initial stages, but will involve some of the following measures:

- A faculty reading group, in which members of the Philosophy Department who are interested will read and discuss literature around best practices for inclusive Philosophy pedagogy.
- A survey of or discussion with current and former majors about their experiences in Trinity's Philosophy classrooms, with the central aim of better understanding the experiences of students of color and what they think could be done to foster a more inclusive environment.
- The identification of ways in which the Philosophy curriculum could be made more diverse and inclusive. This might include identifying texts by authors of diverse racial background that could be used in each of our classes, suggestions for teaching Philosophy of Race in an introductory class, etc. I am particularly interested in identifying ways in which our required history of philosophy sequence – all of which are centered in Western Philosophy – could be made to include more diverse authors.

The grant would be helpful for securing the resources needed to pursue these measures and incentivizing faculty participation.

My collaboration group is currently composed of myself and Shane Ewegen, though I expect other faculty will be willing to participate in various parts of the project.

Sincerely,

Peter Antich