



Faculty Council Report to the Temple College Board of Trustees May 19, 2025

I. News

- Faculty Council held the final **Zoom Catch-Up Meeting** of the Spring semester April 25.
- **Faculty Book Club:** Faculty Council partnered with the Center for Teaching and Learning to co-sponsor a Faculty Book Club centered on *Small Teaching*, by James M. Lang, facilitated by **Dr. Reid Echols** (English). The book club met three times throughout the Spring semester. A total of 20 faculty members participated in the book club.

II. Committee Updates

- Elections Committee (**Erica Perrine**, Chair): Elections for the 2025-2026 academic year close May 13, 2025.
- Barnhart Award Selection Committee (**Erica Perrine**, Chair)
 - The Barnhart Award Selection Committee has solicited nominations for the 2025-2026 award. Nominees have been notified and have until Aug. 15, to accept the nomination and submit supporting documents.

III. Faculty Service and Achievements

- Faculty have closed out the Spring 2025 semester and are getting ready for Summer 2025 classes.
- Brice Olivier accepted the Claudia and W.T. Barnhart Outstanding Faculty award, which includes a plaque and check for \$2,500, during the annual Spring graduation ceremony. Following is the transcript of her speech:

Barnhart Award Graduation Speech, Brice Olivier, May 10, 2025

I am truly humbled and honored to receive the Barnhart Award today. Since beginning my journey at Temple College, this award has been a personal aspiration.

Let me begin by thanking the Barnhart Family for establishing this award and for inspiring those of us at Temple College to pursue excellence in our teaching.

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I'm deeply grateful to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ponce, Dr. Susan Guzman-Trevino, and the entire administrative team for their support—both of me personally and of our faculty and staff as a whole.

To the incredible staff at Temple College: thank you for supporting our mission in so many essential ways that happen outside the classroom. Your efforts are often unseen but always felt.

To my Dean, my Department Chair, and my Division—thank you for your continued encouragement. And to the Faculty Council, thank you for this extraordinary recognition.

But most of all, I want to thank my family for their constant love, and my students for challenging me to grow—as both a professor and a person. I would not be standing on this stage without you.

As a history professor, I tend to see the world as a narrative—a story that flows from the past, through the present, and into the future. History is something we are all a part of. And for those of you graduating today, you are adding a major milestone to the timeline of your own life stories.

While we cannot change the past—and while history may not repeat itself exactly—we *can* learn from it. The names and dates matter, but the deeper lessons come from understanding why people made the choices they did. I believe this kind of thinking helps us navigate the present with more clarity—and make wiser, more informed decisions for our future.

Because one day, the decisions you make today and tomorrow and ten years from now will become history. And the question we all have to ask is: what kind of legacy will I leave behind?

Graduates, your path to this moment has not been easy. You've faced uncertainty and change—and yet you've persisted. Your family, friends, professors, advisors, and community are proud of you. I am proud of you—whether I've had the privilege of teaching you or not.

As you step into the next chapter of your story, let it be guided by the lessons of the past, shaped by your values, and driven by hope for the future. Identify your passions and your *principles*, and live by both. Don't compromise either.

As life throws tough situations your way, make decisions that you can live with—both in the short term and in the long run. And when you make those choices, ask yourself *why*. If your “why” is grounded in reflection, in your history, and in your values—then you're on the right path.

In the end, the most important historian who will ever reflect on your life... is you. Make choices you'll be proud to revisit.

So today, I offer you my heartfelt congratulations. May your decisions be wise, your principles strong, and your legacy one for the history books.

Congratulations to you all.