April 23, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I am announcing Associate Professor Nancy Bauer as the next dean of academic affairs in the School of Arts and Sciences. As of July 1, Professor Bauer will join Dean of Academic Affairs James Glaser, filling the vacancy left by Andrew McClellan, who is returning to the art history faculty after six meritorious years of service.

Over the past months, I spoke to many members of the faculty—whose participation in this process I greatly appreciate—and was, finally, able to select from out of a rich pool of candidates. So I am particularly happy to welcome Nancy and to add her voice to the leadership team as we face the challenges ahead. She will have the opportunity to help her faculty colleagues be full partners in the school’s progress and to ensure their voices are heard. She has a keen interest in ensuring all of Arts and Sciences is strengthened and remains healthy. Most important, Nancy is particularly sensitive, on the one hand, to recognizing the need to address contemporary issues while, on the other hand, ensuring we hold fast to our historic academic mission.

Nancy brings an impressive array of experiences to this new role. Arriving in the Department of Philosophy in 1998 as a visiting assistant professor—and moving to a tenure-stream appointment the following year—Nancy rose through the ranks serving as director of graduate studies (2001 to 2008) and as department chair (2008 to 2011). No stranger to Boston, Nancy received her Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard University, a Master of Theological Studies from the Harvard Divinity School, and an A.B. in social studies from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges. Her areas of specialization include feminism and feminist philosophy, continental philosophy, and philosophy and film and are explored through research and teaching, grants and presentations, professional leadership, and even mass media.

Nancy distinguishes herself in each of these areas. The winner of the Undergraduate Initiative in Teaching Award (2002), Tufts University Professor of the Year (2001-2002), and the Leibner Award for Distinguished Advising and Teaching (2005), in the classroom Nancy successfully brings to life the views of a wide range of philosophical thinkers from Simone de Beauvoir and René Descartes to J.L. Austin and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Her seminal work, *Simone de Beauvoir, Philosophy, and Feminism* continues to define her underlying interests while her book on methodology in philosophy, *How To Do Things with Pornography*, is close to completion. The upcoming *Routledge Guide to “The Second Sex”* will be the first in this series to focus on a female philosopher.
Nancy speaks on a range of subjects and in academic settings in such places as Paris, France (“Austin and Feminism”); Valparaiso, Chile (“Pending Revolutions: Women Hold Up Half the Sky”); and Mexico City, Mexico (“What Sexual Objectification Isn’t”). But, perhaps equally interesting, is Nancy’s emphasis on bringing philosophical thinking to lay audiences. She has tackled feminism on BBC radio, and asked “What is So Gaga About Lady Gaga?” on NPR. She has written on the split between religion and philosophy for The Tehran Times (online) and been on PBS’s Religion and Ethics Weekly. These activities follow logically for someone who decided to pursue her doctorate to be a better journalist and to be able to write about complex subjects for a lay audience. It is little wonder, then, that Nancy’s service to Tufts crosses the disciplines: as a core faculty member for both the international relations and the communications and media studies programs and as supplemental faculty member in the Department of Drama and Dance.

Nancy’s academic qualifications and service to Tufts and her profession speak to her integrity, vision, and seriousness of purpose. We are delighted she will bring these to bear as we, together, craft the future of Arts and Sciences. Please join me in congratulating Professor Nancy Bauer on this appointment and wishing her all the best.

Sincerely,

Joanne Berger-Sweeney
Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences