

**Report to the Executive Council on  
The Arthur R. and Anna Mae Paulsen Endowed Visiting Chair in Public Affairs**

Submitted July 30, 2013 by Jill Purdy, committee chair

The 2012-2013 Paulsen committee consisted of faculty members Nicole Blair, Lisa Hoffman, Matthew Kelley, Jill Purdy (chair), staff member BrieAnna Jaiteh (representing the Office of Advancement), and student Michael Lockwood (representing ASUWT). No family or community representatives were appointed to the committee for the year.

Following the recommendation of the previous Paulsen Committee members, we seek to fill the Endowed Visiting Chair in the autumn of odd-numbered years. This practice allows funds to accumulate in the endowment such that speakers of the caliber envisioned by the Paulsens can be invited to campus.

The Paulsen Lecture committee met in March to discuss the budget, process and possible candidates for the Paulsen chair. After a discussion of possible speaker topics, the committees decided to create a Catalyst survey to solicit input from students, faculty, alumni, and community members. The survey was administered by Michael in late March and garnered over 100 responses with 47 suggestions for possible speakers. Survey results suggested that topics of greatest interest to the campus as a whole were Education and Schools, and Human Rights, with no strong preference for a domestic- versus an internationally-focused speaker.

In April the committee generated a list of prospective candidates drawing upon members' input as well as survey results. Noting that the prior two Paulsen lecturers were Caucasian males, the committee worked to identify female candidates and persons of color. BrieAnna conducted research on over a dozen names to determine which candidates fit the budget.

Short list finalists included Diane Ravitch, Rachel Maddow, Andrew Sullivan and Hanna Rosin. Given budget and scheduled limitations, the former two candidates were eliminated. While previously unfamiliar with Hanna Rosin, the committee felt that her work would be of interest to the campus community and that she would present a different perspective from prior Paulsen Lecturers. In July BrieAnna recommended Hanna Rosin to the Chancellor as the Paulsen Lecturer on behalf of the committee. A remaining task is to identify a class or small group setting in which Ms. Rosin can participate while she is Visiting Chair. Ms. Rosin's public lecture will occur at 7:00 pm on October 15.

Challenges with getting timely information about the affordability and availability of candidates hampered the committee's ability to work together to make an informed group decision. Toward the end of the process, our discussions were limited to e-mail exchanges with limited insight into which candidates were still viable and why. We suggest that future Paulsen committees strive to begin the process of information gathering about candidates earlier, and establish specific deadlines for sharing information and making decisions about candidates.