

Diversity (20th Century Style)

We'll groom our new professor well.
She's smart and qualified, but green.
Yes, when she understands the rules,
she'll be an asset to us all.

What an honor! Oh, she'll love us!
So, perhaps a little carrot...
one who starts out - half-time pro -
becomes a tough negotiator.

If we show her how we do it,
then she'll know she has to publish.
Let us show her round, a tour on
salary – er – ours not hers yet.

Surely, she will use our books to
write that paper – she's a good one.
We will train her in what's proper –
how to win respect, tomorrow.

We are waiting; she's not learning.
What? She didn't plan to ask us?
Should we change the schedule for her,
since she's teaching other classes?

*"If you'd told me you would hire me
next semester, by October,
I'd have nixed my other offers;
but you waited till December."*

"One class loved you; not the other –
dismal science, if in Business."
"May I see what students wrote, then?"
Secretary sends the dismals!

Seems she's dumber than we thought,
and arrogant and out of touch;
she thinks our rules do not apply.
"Ms. Brown – I need an adjunct please."

Leslie N. Sinclair, revised April 2024

PS – It's a true story; they hired one of my students to be their adjunct, and he asked me for a reference. I was gracious, of course, but now, having watched the movie, *The Assistant*, I wonder whether they enjoyed it.