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Professor Steven Michels has been named director of University assessment for Sacred Heart University. In this newly created position, Michels will oversee a University-wide assessment committee dedicated to continuously improving teaching and learning through the use of evidence-based assessment tools.

A specialist in political theory with two peer-reviewed books and numerous scholarly articles to his credit, Michels joined the faculty in the SHU College of Arts & Sciences in 2002. He served most recently as an associate professor of political science and has also directed the Thomas More Honors Program, served on several core curriculum implementation committees and attended conferences on teaching and assessment. In 2013, he won two separate SHU awards for teaching and scholarship and, most recently, he was the recipient of the 2015 Faculty Excellence Award from University College. Michels previously held teaching positions at Southern Connecticut State University, Loyola University in Chicago and Concordia University.

Michels' responsibilities as director include working with all SHU colleges and programs on improving and streamlining their use of evidence, working with other offices and staff around the University that support student learning, documenting assessment efforts and writing

accreditation reports. His new office is in the McLeod Center for Interactive Learning in the Martire Business & Communications Center.

“This new position shows how committed the University is to its students. I’m excited about the opportunity to work with my colleagues, who are such great teachers, on how we might improve our craft,” Michels says. “There is so much good work already going on at the University. My primary task will be to integrate it and make it more efficient.”

Adds Laura Niesen de Abruna, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, “I am confident that under Steven’s leadership, the committee will successfully manage our assessment methods across all of our six Colleges.”

Michels completed his doctorate in political science at Loyola University in Chicago. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Eastern Michigan University and his master’s at the University of Georgia, Athens.