

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences

November 12, 2012

It is proposed that a new Department of Journalism be established in the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences

Background:

In 1984, the Department of English created a journalism minor, which provided the foundation for the BA in Journalism licensed by the Department of Higher Education in 2009, and accredited in 2010. Approximately 80 students major in journalism, with another 30 or so minors in journalism. Ten journalism majors graduated in May 2012. The program, under the leadership of Dr. Vivian Martin, has built up its profile through its curriculum, co-curricular events such as the creation of a student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), and alignment with the Center for International Education by hosting successful Courses Abroad (London 2010, Paris 2012, and China planned for 2013). In addition to an active internship program, the program is working on experiential learning projects with professional media organizations. Through the appointment of a respected professional to the Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication, the program has further increased its visibility with the public and among area professionals, contributing further to the growth of a journalism culture at CCSU.

The program's 21 BA graduates work as journalists for newspapers, websites, and television stations, as well as in writing, editing and social media positions for other content creators. Forty percent of the 2012 class is already employed or entering graduate school this fall. Journalism students in 2012 won a scholarship award from SPJ and journalism students on the *Recorder*, the student-run newspaper, won three state SPJ awards.

Faculty in the Department of Journalism faculty will include:

Dr. Vivian Martin
Prof. Anthony Cannella
Prof. Darren Sweeney
Prof. Mary D'Ambrosio

| Prof. John Dankosky - Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication

Prof. Thomas Bieluczyk (part-time)
Prof. Stephen Dunn (part-time)
Prof. James Smith (part-time)
Prof. Thomas Puleo (part-time)

Rationale

A new Department of Journalism was a goal from the inception of the major in order to create greater visibility for the program within and outside of the university. As a discipline distinct from English, journalism faculty need autonomy to continue building a professional program and to be represented on University committees. Moreover, the current journalism curriculum was developed with advice and counsel of Prof. Suzanne Shaw, executive director of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC), and Trevor Brown, ACEJMC consultant and former head of Indiana University's Ernie Pyle School of Journalism. The curriculum is consistent with the standards specified by ACEJMC for national accreditation, a distinction currently held by only one program in the state, UCONN's journalism department. However, when Professors Shaw and Brown visited CCSU in April, 2008, they indicated that the program could not pursue accreditation as part of an English Department. They strongly recommended the creation of a Department of Journalism.

Impact

We do not project any impact on the English department. The Journalism Program has operated with its own budget for the past two fiscal years. We anticipate having the new department utilize support staff in the English Department as it does currently. The program currently operates two labs for instruction, and with the assistance of the Dean of the Ammon School of Arts and Sciences' office, the program has acquired equipment over the past two years. There will thus be no impact on space and no significant immediate equipment costs. The program coordinator, who receives three hours of administrative reassigned time each semester, will receive 6 hours of reassigned time per semester as interim chair.

Department Structure

The new department would create committees to govern the department and supply representatives to the Faculty Senate and university Curriculum Committee. It will recruit an appropriate outside member for its DEC since only two of the fulltime Journalism faculty members are tenured. Vivian Martin will serve as acting chair until such time as the Department elects a chair.