

Faculty Senate Community Engagement Committee
2016-17 Annual Report

Officers:

Chair: Reginald Simmons, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Vice-Chair: Abigail Adams, Department of Anthropology

Secretary: Steven Block, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Number of Committee Members: 35

Number of Full Committee Meetings this academic year: 4

(Subcommittees meet between full committee meetings)

This report summarizes progress made in the committee's three priority areas:

1. Promotion and Tenure recognition of faculty community engagement activity

The Policy subcommittee was formed to begin conceptualizing processes that can support P&T recognition of faculty involved in community engagement efforts.

Progress:

During the 2015-16 academic year, the subcommittee developed language that was approved for addition to the Appendix section of the Senate P&T Policy. The language was designed to provide examples of community engagement and service-learning that can be considered as load-credit and creative activity in promotion and tenure portfolios. During the current academic year, committee members developed and presented to the Senate a set of guidelines designed to assist faculty in documenting their engaged scholarship, teaching and service. The guidelines are currently being reviewed by the Senate.

2. Collaborate with CCSU Office of Community Engagement on efforts to support faculty community engagement activity

A Resource Development subcommittee was formed to conceptualize and develop mechanisms for supporting faculty who want to incorporate community engagement activity in their courses and/or research.

Progress:

The subcommittee is working with Jessica Hernandez, the coordinator of the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) on adding more resources to the OCE website that will be of use to faculty interested in incorporating community engagement in their work. The resources include but are not limited to publication and presentation venues, samples of engaged scholarship, and community partners seeking collaboration with faculty. That work will most-likely continue in 2016-17. Additionally, the subcommittee worked in collaboration with OCE and the CCSU Center for Teaching and Faculty Development (CTFD) on the implementation of a faculty community engagement workshop that occurred October 14th, 2015. The subcommittee is currently partnering with OCE and CTFD on the development of a second workshop for faculty that is slated to occur October 20th, 2016. The workshop will provide information that can support community engagement activity and interactive group exercises on conceptualizing community engagement initiatives.

3. Develop a mechanism for enhancing the viability of CEN 200 and the Community Engagement Minor

The Curriculum subcommittee engaged in efforts to strengthen the Community Engagement Minor, which is managed by the Community Engagement Committee

Progress:

Significant revisions to the CE Minor went into effect in Fall 2015. These revisions included editing courses in the Minor to provide a greater range of courses across disciplines that are offered on a more regular basis. Other revisions included adding a one-credit practicum(CEN 201) to complement the cornerstone CEN 200 course(Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement), and adding a required internship(CEN 402) for CE Minors. The committee also created an email address (fsce@ccsu.edu) that is featured on new brochures for students to use for any questions pertaining to the minor. The committee also developed an internship application that students interested in CEN 402 must complete. The application is being used for acceptance to the CEN 402 class being offered in Fall 2016.

Enrollment in the Minor is steadily increasing as committee members offer CEN 200 more regularly, which can serve as a feeder course for the Minor. The enrollment in the Minor has grown from 0 in Fall of 2014 to at least 19 as of Spring 2016.

For 2016-17, the subcommittee will continue efforts to fine-tune management of the CE Minor, including ensuring that CEN 200/201 and the new internship can be offered on a consistent basis for CE Minors, and exploring a partnership with OCE that will benefit the learning experience of CE Minors.

Other efforts

The committee recommends faculty for recognition of their community engagement activity. Mary Collins was nominated for and won the Connecticut Campus Compact “Community-Engaged Educator Award” in Summer 2015. Additionally, the committee members consulted with the Office of Community Engagement on the development and dissemination of an annual community engagement survey to all faculty at CCSU. The survey was the first comprehensive effort in recent years to assess the community engagement activity on campus.

In Spring 2016, the Chair of the CE committee invited the executive director of the Coalition for New Britain’s Youth to a committee meeting which was also open to all university professors. The goal of the meeting was for faculty to hear the goals and structure of the Coalition, in an effort to foster collaborations between professors and the Coalition that can benefit New Britain youth and families. At least two new collaborations between the coalition and CCSU professors have developed this year.

Summary: The Community Engagement committee is active and membership remains strong with multiple members using their talents and skills to successfully advance the work of the committee.

Respectfully submitted by Reginald Simmons, Chair