

Faculty Senate Community Engagement Committee
2014-15 Annual Report

Officers:

Chair: Reginald Simmons, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Vice-Chair: Karen Riem, Department of Teacher Education

Secretary: Steven Block, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Total number of committee members: 35

Total number of committee meetings during the year : 5

This report summarizes progress made on the committee's three priority areas during the 2014-15 academic year:

1. Promotion and Tenure Recognition of Faculty community engagement efforts

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

Subcommittee members were: Karen Riem, Robbin Smith, Paul Peterson, Abigail Adams, Kris Larson, and Fumilayo Showers

Progress:

The subcommittee developed language that was approved for addition to the Appendix section of the Senate P&T Guidelines. 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. Additionally, a draft document was created to support DEC efforts to evaluate faculty community engagement activity for promotion and tenure. This will be finalized and presented for review by Faculty Senate in the 2015-16 academic year.

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.

Subcommittee members were: Jessica Hernandez, Mary Collins, Olga Petkova, Susan Koski, and Nara Mijid.

Progress:

The subcommittee began working with Jessica Hernandez, the Coordinator of the Office of Community Engagement on adding more resources to the OCE website that will be of use to faculty interested in incorporating community engagement in their work(publication and presentation venues, engaged scholarship guidelines, samples of engaged scholarship, community partners interested in collaboration, etc...) . That work will most-likely continue in 2015-16. Additionally, the subcommittee worked with the Center of Teaching and Faculty Development to plan a Faculty community engagement workshop, which will occur October 14th , 2015. The workshop is designed to provide faculty information that can aid initiation of community engagement activity.

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

Subcommittee members were: Abigail Adams, Laura Minor, Beth Merenstein, Paul Petterson, Nghi Thai, & Eleanor Thornton

Progress:

The Curriculum subcommittee made significant revisions to the Community Engagement Minor in an effort to provide a solid learning experience for students. These revisions included editing courses in the Minor to provide a range of relevant courses across disciplines that are offered on a more regular basis. Other revisions included adding a one-credit lab to complement the cornerstone CEN 200 course(Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement), and adding a required internship for CE Minors. All revisions were approved by the CCSU Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate and are active for Fall 2015. 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. Students interested in the CE Minor are to contact the Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, Reginald Simmons.

For 2015-16, the subcommittee will continue efforts to fine-tune management of the CE Minor, such as ensuring that CEN 200 and the new internship can be offered on a consistent basis for CE Minors.

Summary: The Community Engagement committee is active in multiple ways and membership remains strong.

Respectfully submitted by Reginald Simmons, Chair
October 2015