

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:** 41

**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 prior 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 when being considered for renewal, promotion and tenure. After incorporating feedback from senate representatives and colleagues, the guidelines were approved in Spring 2016 and are available on the Faculty Senate webpage.

**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:

- In Fall 2016, the committee partnered with CCSU Office of Community Engagement to convene a second faculty development workshop that imparted information and skills in an interactive fashion to assist faculty to initiate their own engaged research, teaching or service. Twenty-two faculty were in attendance.
- In Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, committee members worked with Jessica Hernandez of the CCSU Office of Community Engagement (OCE) on changes to the OCE website that would allow it to be a better resource for faculty interested in community engagement. The changes were given to IT for implementation.

**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:

- Faculty on the committee continue to manage the community engagement minor, an interdisciplinary minor that continues to grow in popularity among students. As of Fall 2017, 18 students were enrolled in the CE Minor, continuing a steady increase in enrollment (only 2 students were enrolled as recently as 2 years ago).
- In Spring 2017, sixteen students were enrolled in CEN 200, a foundational class for the minor. Last year, a practicum was added to CEN 200 called CEN 201. This allows for all students enrolled in CEN 200 to gain experience working in community-based entities. In Spring 2017, the entire CEN 200/201 class worked on an initiative for youth at Holmes Elementary School.
- Last year, an internship (CEN 402) became a requirement for community engagement minors in order to provide students an in-depth experience embedded in the local community. Students are required to complete 120 hours of activity at a community-based agency in addition to supervision by a CCSU faculty member affiliated with the community engagement committee.
- An event was held in Fall 2016 introducing interested students to the community engagement minor. Sixteen students were in attendance.

- The Curriculum subcommittee began pursuing the possibility of cross-listing courses so that more students are aware of courses that have a community engagement component. This work will continue in 2017-18.
- Future work: Now that multiple faculty are interested in teaching sections of CEN 200/201, the CE curriculum subcommittee is developing processes for ensuring some degree of consistency in instruction across sections.

### **Other efforts/recognition**

In late-Spring 2016, The CCSU community engagement committee received the first-ever Campus Leadership Award from the Campus Compact of Connecticut. The state-wide award recognizes university-based entities in Connecticut that have made strides advancing community engagement on a college campus.

The committee met with President Toro in Spring 2017. With President Toro's support, the committee will begin drafting an RFP for a grant that will support faculty to initiate community engagement projects.

New leadership was elected during the end of Spring 2017. Nghi Thai and Michele Dischino will co-chair the committee beginning Fall 2017. Amy Gagnon will be the new secretary.

**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