

Ned Lamont's Teaching and Other Activities at CCSU: 2006 - 2017

Ned Lamont was first invited to give a lecture at CCSU in April 2006, and his presentation "Challenging the Convention Wisdom" drew a standing only attendance of over 100, dealing with issues on the war in Iraq, health care and the need for critical thinking. Subsequently, Mr. Lamont indicated his interest in developing a link with the university, including creating a public policy group, and an offer was made by CCSU to host this group. Mr. Lamont was appointed as an adjunct professor in the Departments of Political Science and Philosophy with a mandate to:

- 1/ Teach classes in courses in Political Science, Philosophy, Peace Studies and other areas of his experience and expertise.
- 2/ Bring speakers and organize panels of experts on contemporary issues.
- 3/ Establish a public policy committee to consider policy options for the state.

In 2008, considering the outstanding business and political experience that he was bringing to CCSU, the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State System recognized Mr. Lamont as "Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy," a title reserved for residents of the state who bring significant expertise to the university. This included teaching classes in courses for the CCSU Peace Studies Program, which is housed in the Philosophy Department and which drew on Mr. Lamont's international experiences, as well as classes in courses in Business based on his entrepreneurial interests.

In terms of his mandate as Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Mr. Lamont has accomplished the following at CCSU:

1/ Mr. Lamont has taught classes in the following courses in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences on matters related to American and state government, the world situation, problems of war and peace, and controversial issues such as the immigration crisis:

- Peace Studies 110: Problems of War and Peace
- Psychology 202: Peace Psychology
- Political Science 230: American Local and State Government
- Philosophy 345: Philosophy of War and Peace

As an example of his work with students, Mr. Lamont arranged for and subsidized a unique experience for students in Peace Studies 110: a weekly small group video-chat for students with peers elsewhere in the US, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, allowing our students to broaden their horizons and directly interact with students around the world.

Student reactions to Mr. Lamont's teaching have uniformly been positive. Students remarked that Mr. Lamont's lectures and talks "have brought us a taste of real world experiences", "shown us what is happening in US political debates", and "broadened our perspectives on global problems." (anonymous student evaluations)

Faculty have commented favorably on Mr. Lamont's "open approach to teaching: encouraging student participation, critical thinking, problem solving and conflict resolution approaches"

(Prof. Blitz), and “his concern to bring current events to our students in a lively and informative way and consider public policy options in an open-minded manner.” (Prof. Austad)

2/ Mr. Lamont has brought to the university many dozens of speakers and panelists:

- He has invited, introduced and presented in classes speakers from the Brookings Institute such as Michael O’Hanlon (on several occasions), former military leaders such as Gen. (ret.) John Johns on the Iraq War, then Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Chase Rogers on careers for students in criminal justice, diplomatic leaders such as Hussein Haqqani, former ambassador to the US from Pakistan, and business leaders such as Ted Turner, who talked about his business experiences and his views on nuclear disarmament.
- He has organized panels on topical issues, such as health care, pension plans, judicial affairs, and state and federal elections, bringing in qualified speakers and hosting the events as moderator or participating as a panelist.
- Mr. Lamont has also organized activities in the Schools of Business and Education, as well as activities to benefit Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs.

Mr. Lamont has provided many high caliber speakers who would otherwise be unattainable for CCSU students. For example, the afternoon talk and reception with Ted Turner was a valuable experience for our students, and also featured an event well attended by alumni. Without Mr. Lamont’s generosity, influence, and connections, students and alumni would not have met Mr. Turner or been able to interact with him.

3/ In 2008, with the approval of the Dean, Mr. Lamont established a Public Policy Committee in the School of Arts and Sciences at CCSU which he chaired, and which included a number of full-time CCSU faculty, including the two who prepared this report. This group has organized and sponsored a wide variety of speakers, panels and meetings on issues related to health care, pension funding, as well as bipartisan debates on state elections and surrogate debates on presidential elections. A particular focus for these events was to invite representatives of opposite points of view or competing parties, so that students could assess all sides of an issue.

In 2009 Mr. Lamont helped establish a separate non-university public policy group with William Cibes. The object of the group (or task force, as it invited external input) was to provide non-partisan policy options for the next governor – whether Democrat or Republican. Dr. Cibes assembled and forwarded a number of proposals, based on meetings after Mr. Lamont had left the group in order to focus his energies on running in the 2010 Democratic primary.

Since 2010 Mr. Lamont has continued to organize activities at CCSU on public policy and current events, up to his recent decision to once again contest the election for governor - at which point he discontinued his formal link to the university. Various posters representative of Mr. Lamont’s talks and panels which he organized from 2006 – 2016 are included in a separate file. A second file contains the recommendation and resolution for Mr. Lamont’s status as Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at CCSU.

David Blitz, Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair
Carol Austad, Connecticut State University Professor of Psychology