

2005-06 Faculty Senate Goals

Ratified 9/2/2005

Vision: To enhance the quality of faculty life at Christopher Newport University in order to recruit and retain the superior faculty integral to a nationally recognized university, and to support not just exemplary teaching and learning, but also the significant scholarship that will enhance CNU's reputation as it evolves into the preeminent public liberal arts and sciences university it aspires to be and is now becoming.

- **Goal 1: Increase faculty participation in university governance, and strengthen faculty responsibility, involvement, and leadership in matters of import to the university.**
 - **Strategy 1A: Create forums in which faculty members can express to the Senate their ideas for bringing faculty life in line with that of our aspirant peer institutions, for strengthening teaching and learning, and for enhancing the university's reputation as an institution of excellence.**
 - Have Senators visit department meetings, especially those that are not represented on the Senate, to solicit ideas from faculty members (1-2 times each term).
 - Hold 1-2 brown-bag topics sessions each semester to solicit ideas (e.g., what are your 3 best ideas for improving the quality of faculty life at CNU?).
 - Complete the 5-year Senate Assessment required by the Handbook.
 - Continue to expedite approval of Senate minutes, distribute them electronically, and post on the web page.
 - Continue to make General Faculty meetings about important information, issues, and updates rather than a pro forma vote on the graduates.
 - **Strategy 1B: Enhance cooperation and communication among university standing committees and the Faculty Senate.**
 - Invite key committee chairs to a Senate meeting and introduce them.
 - Host a small social event in the fall with Senators and standing committee chairs.
 - Invite key committee chairs to deliver BRIEF updates to Senators, especially when Senate action upon their committee recommendations is pending.
 - Work with committee chairs, especially the UCC chair, FCLLAL

chair, and the Assistant Dean for Liberal Learning, to coordinate timetables in advance for their major recommendations to the Senate

- **Strategy 1C: Support the ongoing Senate-administration efforts to increase CNU's graduation and retention rates.**
 - Establish a standing Academic Advising Steering Committee
 - Communicate to the faculty the importance of their efforts in early identification of academically at-risk students and connecting them to campus support services
 - Inform faculty of Learning Community initiatives and encourage faculty support of/participation in the same.
- **Strategy 1D: Create an annual budget request for the Faculty Senate.**
- **Goal 2: Enhance quality of faculty life at CNU, to include emphasis on faculty scholarship/research/creative activity, in order to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning, to strengthen the academic reputation of the university, and to provide a vibrant academic culture.**
 - **Strategy 2A: Increase participation in existing faculty development opportunities, as research and scholarship are the foundations of excellent teaching as well as the bellwethers of preeminent universities.**
 - Encourage faculty to subscribe to the Faculty Calendar, which includes grant application deadlines, and send reminders of Faculty Development Grant and Sabbatical application deadlines at the start of each term and 1-2 weeks in advance of the actual deadlines.
 - Work with Beth Fogarty to advertise grant opportunities
 - **Strategy 2B: Expand faculty professional development opportunities for research/scholarship in line with those of our aspirant peer institutions, as research and scholarship are the foundations of excellent teaching as well as the benchmarks of preeminent universities.**
 - Work with the administration to establish a concrete plan for concomitant teaching responsibilities that would emphasize faculty scholarship, research, and creative activity by providing faculty time to pursue such activities and involve students in them.
 - Work with the administration to increase the number of sabbaticals offered each year from 4 to 10, budget permitting.
 - Make some form of junior faculty scholarship/research/creative activity opportunities available.
 - Request increased faculty development grant budget for 2006-07.

- Encourage the development of forums to foster research collaborations among faculty from different disciplines
- Consider sponsoring NSF presentations/seminars for CNU faculty and faculty from other universities in the area
- **Strategy 2C: Provide venues for recognition of faculty accomplishments that will strengthen the academic reputation of CNU and as well as enhance faculty camaraderie**
 - Create a system for university Outstanding Teaching Awards, and Outstanding Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Awards
 - Secure funding for and sponsor a spring semester promotion and tenure party for the faculty.
- **Strategy 2D: Work with the administration to minimize the location of many faculty members in outlying areas of the campus, which impedes students' easy access to their professors' offices, and thus affects classroom performance and retention, as well as impacts faculty's own sense of "connectedness" to the campus.**
 - Work with the administration to create faculty work areas in central campus locations (such as the new Student Center and the new library) to be used by faculty whose offices are in outlying areas to meet students and prepare for class
- **Strategy 2E: Increase faculty participation in the design and allocation of academic space. Different disciplines and courses require different types of classrooms to facilitate learning.**
 - Perform an audit of existing classroom facilities and a survey of faculty for the "ideal" learning space fixtures, features and configurations.
 - Work with the administration to place a priority on improving and increasing academic space.
- **Strategy 2F: Create an ad-hoc faculty task force (both senate and non-senate) to develop a plan for offering tuition waivers for the spouses and children of faculty members.**

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