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Announcement

1 message

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To: faculty@cnu.edu, employees@cnu.edu

Today Provost Padilla accepted the resignation tendered by Dr. David Cleeton, as Dean of the College of Social Sciences. We are grateful for Dean Cleeton's service over the past two academic years.

Provost Padilla, moreover, is pleased to welcome Dr. Cleeton in his new role of Professor of Economics in the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance, where he will help to lead the new BA major in economics with a distinguished record of teaching and scholarship in the fields of economics and finance.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Bob Colvin to serve as the new Dean of the College of Social Services. Dr. Colvin will begin his tenure as Dean on May 17, 2010. This appointment was made in consultation with Provost Padilla, Faculty Senate President Dr. Pete Carlson, Chair of the Department of Government, Dr. Quentin Kidd and other senior members of the faculty and administration.

Dr. Colvin joined CNU as an assistant professor of government in August 1998. CNU awarded him tenure in 2004 and the next year he became associate professor of leadership studies and chair of the new Department of Leadership Studies. In August 2007, Dr. Richard Summerville, former CNU Provost and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics wrote the following comments about Dr. Colvin:

It is noteworthy that when Dr. Colvin joined our faculty ten years ago, he was already an experienced professional. In the 1980s and 1990s his professional service included being executive director of the

Virginia State Crime Commission, being one of the three commissioners of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and being program manager of the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs. During two sessions of the Virginia General Assembly in the 1990s, when he was not in the employ of state government, Dr. Colvin served successfully as a registered lobbyist, representing the interests of a variety of clients to the Assembly. Thus, when he accepted his first full-time professorial appointment and joined the CNU faculty in 1998, he was arguably one of the most experienced, successful, and accomplished new assistant professors in the history of the University.

Dr. Colvin earned his Ph.D. in public policy and administration at Virginia Commonwealth University; however, his scholarly record (including his doctoral dissertation) reveals that his academic expertise and overriding academic commitment lies in the area of leadership studies. Accordingly, a few years ago, when CNU decided to establish its own department of leadership studies (now the department of leadership and American studies), we turned to Dr. Colvin to leave his position in the department of government and to become the founding chair of the new department. In this capacity, he has, himself, quickly become an academic leader of the first rank. In just two years, the department's full-time faculty has grown from three to seven; it offers a minor in leadership studies and a major in American studies; and it is characterized by unity, competence, clarity of mission, widely-respected teaching and scholarship, and legitimate optimism about its future.

Nearly three years have passed since Dr. Summerville wrote these words and much has happened. The Department of Leadership and American Studies has grown to 10 full time faculty members. Annually, more than 300 students, one-quarter of the incoming freshman class, are enrolled in the President's Leadership Program (PLP) and the four year Minor in Leadership Studies. CNU undergraduate students and faculty members give competitively-accepted presentations every year at the prestigious Global Conference of the International Leadership Association (ILA). ILA has more than 1,200 members from 30 countries and attendance at the conference is usually 700 persons. The American studies program continues to build momentum and hired its first post-doctoral fellow in 2009 to supplement the American studies faculty. Dr. Colvin has been actively involved in leading CNU and its students to these achievements.

In January 2010, Dr. Colvin underwent the scheduled six-year "Post-Tenure Performance Review." This formal review requires multiple levels of detailed examination by faculty peers and University Administrators of the faculty member's performance over the six years since achieving tenure. The following are relevant excerpts from the Department Review Committee's (DRC) Summary Statement, which was authored by the Committee's four faculty members Drs. Anne Perkins

(chair), Joan McMahon, Lisa Spiller and Michelle Vachris.

The Department Review Committee is unanimous in its praise for Dr. Robert Colvin's remarkable contributions to students, colleagues, and the CNU community, and the field of leadership studies . . . Rarely does a faculty member present such a strong record of service and performance.

Dr. Colvin's teaching record is exemplary. His adjusted IDEA scores for teaching excellence range from 4.7 to 5.0, truly outstanding. Even when students rate excellence of the course in the mid-range, they score Dr. Colvin high in teaching excellence and reaching course objectives. Student comments show him to be engaging, creative, and having high expectations in the classroom. "Dr. Bob" is universally liked and respected by his students who honored him as the 2005 CNU Faculty Member of the Year.

Dr. Colvin's record for service is truly extraordinary . . . Seldom has one individual been asked to contribute so much to an institution. Whenever CNU has needed exceptional leadership it has called on Dr. Colvin. From department chair, to the development of programs in leadership studies and American studies to chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, he has taken on one challenging task after another on behalf of the University. Dr. Colvin truly epitomizes Robert Greenleaf's concept of servant leadership through his willingness to give selflessly for the betterment of CNU, putting the University's needs before his own. Servant leadership is evident not only through his formal positions and roles but also in his efforts to mentor junior faculty and his support of student research and scholarly development.

In addition to this service to CNU, Dr. Colvin has also contributed to the professional communities to which he belongs. He serves on the Managing Board of the Journal of Leadership Education, a tier-one journal in the field of leadership studies, and was chair of the Member Interest Group on Public Leadership for the International Leadership Association. He has also been President and Immediate Past President of the Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Dr. Colvin is an outstanding teacher, extraordinary servant leader, and esteemed scholar and colleague. His contributions to CNU and the field of leadership studies are immeasurable.

In conclusion, let me repeat the words of his faculty colleagues, *“Dr. Colvin is an outstanding teacher, extraordinary servant leader, and esteemed scholar and colleague. His contributions to CNU . . . are immeasurable.”*

I am confident that Dr. Colvin will provide inspired leadership as our new Dean of the College of Social Sciences.

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