

Christopher Newport University, Faculty Senate 2006-07

(For an older version, see http://faculty senate.cnu.edu/06_07/misc/goalsold.doc)

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.

2006-07	2005-06
Senate committee (chaired by Senator Sellars) will make recommendations in early fall regarding permanent changes to the academic calendar.	Recommended that number of faculty members on Budget Advisory Committee be increased from 5 to 6. Status: Approved by President Tribble Fall 05.
Create Handbook language commissioning the University Chairs Council, established by the Senate last year	Worked with administration to adjust 06-07 Academic Calendar to provide an exam reading day;
Create rotation schedule for Faculty Grievance Committee and others, as needed	Recommended that chairs of the UCC and LLC be tenured. Status: Provost approved this Handbook change at 3/27/06 SEC meeting.
Other Handbook changes, p. 151: add Library Science, Leadership/American Studies, and split Fine and Performing Arts into its constituent parts (forwarded to HB committee chair Mulligan 8-29)	Worked with Provost to devise new Handbook language regarding restricted faculty positions. Status: Provost approved this change at 3/27/06 SEC meeting.
	Formally consulted with Provost regarding employment status of librarians (instructional vs. professional faculty), and the tenure issue involved. Established ad hoc committee chaired by Dr. Ron Mollick. Status: Provost offered choice of contract (tenured or professional) to individuals involved.
	SEC met bi-weekly with President and Provost to discuss matters of import to the university; full Senate met with President and Provost twice each term.

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.

2006-07	2005-06
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)	Senators visited departments in Fall 05 and reported departmental concerns to Senate.
Hold 1-2 brown-bag topics sessions to solicit ideas (e.g., what are your 3 best ideas for improving the quality of faculty life at CNU?).	Session held session 10/27/05 for approximately 20 attendees. Resulted in creation of Classroom Facilities Working Group (see 2E).

Senate committee on faculty governance (chaired by Senator Grau), will make recommendations in Fall 06 regarding the adequacy of faculty representation in the current system.	Completed the 5-year Senate Assessment required by the Handbook 1/06.
	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.

2006-07	2005-06
	Revised curriculum procedures in consultation with the UCC and LLC in order to define the role of the LLC in the curriculum process. Provost approved 3/06.
	Worked with ATAC chair Dr. Bob Gray and Bill Brauer/Cindi Perry to get \$75K funding for ATAC's proposal to equip all classrooms with a minimal level of technology. Upgrades completed 1/06.
	Worked with MCLL department to create new foreign language placement policy standards. Provost approved 10/06.
	Coordinated effort to update department CLEP policies. Provost approved Senate recommendations 2/06.
	Invited key committee chairs to a Senate meeting and introduced them.
Host a small social event in the fall with Senators and standing committee chairs	Hosted Senate/Key Committee Chair social 8/18/05.
	Invited 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, LLC chair, and the Assistant Dean for Liberal Learning, to coordinate timetables in advance for their major recommendations to the Senate.	Successful. No special Senate meetings had to be held as a result of curriculum backlogs.

Strategy 1C: Support the ongoing Senate-administration efforts to increase CNU's graduation and retention rates.

2006-07	2005-06
	Senate president Schwarze and Senator Doughty served on First Year Initiatives Coordinating Committee (FYICC)
	Established a standing Academic Advising Steering Committee Complete 9/2/05. Approved that committee's Master Advisor Proposal 4/21/06.
	Communicate to the faculty the importance of their efforts in early identification of academically at-risk students and

	connecting them to campus support services. FYICC instituted the online at-risk referral form, used extensively by faculty.
	Inform faculty of Learning Community initiatives and encourage faculty support of/participation in the same. Senator Doughty's regular emails kept faculty apprised.

Strategy 1D: Create an annual budget request for the Faculty Senate.

2006-07	2005-06
	Budget request of \$750 sent to Provost 2/06. Status: awaiting 06-07 budget finalization

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.

2006-07	2005-06
Get final recommendations from the <i>ad hoc</i> committee on evaluation and assessment of faculty (See item VIII.B in the minutes of the 4/21/06 meeting of the Faculty Senate for earlier discussion of this.)	Worked with Provost and FYICC to realign Getting Started Week activities to provide more time for faculty teaching preparation and faculty-student academic interaction. Supported creation of a Distinguished Lecture Series, proposed by Dr. David Pollio.

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.

2006-07	2005-06
	Encouraged new faculty to subscribe to the Faculty Calendar, which includes grant application deadlines. Sent 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. Record number of applications received indicates this objective was successful.
	Work with Beth Fogarty to advertise grant opportunities. Publicized grant writing workshop with Sigma Xi (coordinated by Dr. Andrew Velkey)

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.

2006-07	2005-06
	Worked 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.
Review and systematize sabbatical application and review process.	Worked with the administration to increase the number of sabbaticals offered from 4 to 10, budget permitting.
Create Handbook provisions for this program.	Recommended junior faculty scholarship/research/creative activity opportunities to Provost. Approved pending

	funding.
Complete adjustments to application package (Guajardo).	Requested increased faculty development grant (\$60K total) budget for 2006-07. Approved pending funding.
Task UGRC to identify student research/travel funds available at CNU and recommend to the Senate 1) a plan for consolidating them, 2) an application and disbursement process.	
Consider sponsoring NSF presentations/seminars for CNU faculty and faculty from other universities in the area.	Encouraged the development of forums to foster research cross-disciplinary collaborations among faculty. FORUM, a multidisciplinary group chaired by Dr. Sharon Rowley, met several times each term to read and critique faculty papers.

Strategy 2C: Provide venues for recognition of faculty accomplishments that will strengthen the academic reputation of CNU and as well as enhance faculty camaraderie

2006-07	2005-06
Work with administration to ensure implementation	Provost's office has agreed to create university Outstanding Teaching Awards.
	Secure funding for and sponsor a spring semester promotion and tenure party for the faculty. Budget exigencies in Spring 06 render this proposal untenable.

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.

2006-07	2005-06
	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. The Senate has identified faculty workspace in the new Student Union (218), which opened in Fall 06.

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.

2006-07	2005-06
Audit existing classroom facilities and a survey of faculty for the "ideal" learning space fixtures, features and configurations.	Worked with the administration to place a priority on improving and increasing academic space. With the Provost, created the Classroom Facilities Working Group, comprised of faculty members and key administrators, to direct the development of the Gosnold renovation, the old Student Center renovation, and the proposed McMurran renovation. Chair: Dr. Kathleen Brunke. Members attended PKAL conference 3/06.

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 (Gau)

Strategy 2G: Work with administration to adjust parking policies, e.g., reducing the \$100 parking fee for adjunct faculty, and shifting the time by which students must move their cars from faculty lots from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.—that is, before the first class of the day begins.