

April 14, 2009

To: Faculty Senate
From: Roberta Rosenberg
Re: Support of the Social Work Program at CNU

As both a CNU professor and the Director of the new Center for Service Learning and Social Entrepreneurship, I would like to support the continuance and preservation of the Social Work program at CNU. Since one of the three major CNU goals is “service,” it seems very important that we retain the Social Work program in the curriculum. I also believe that the program is indispensable to the health of the new Center since two SOWK courses are core courses, one at the beginning and one at the end of the new Minor in Civic Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship.

In addition, the Social Work program has great visibility in the community and suggests in a very public way that CNU is concerned with its community and its residents. Social Work professors partner with community organizations like Healthy Generations to do important studies on the health needs assessments of at-risk residents of Southeast. As the Center collaborates with the Riverside Foundation and others to create a free clinic downtown, the research done by Social Work students will be very exceedingly important for grants.

I have reviewed the CLAS suggestions which would move the Social Work program into a combined Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work department and this seems to be a good compromise. I would hope that the Social Work department would be able to retain its excellent faculty and high standards in this consolidation.

The Social Work program accomplishes all of the excellent goals found in the CNU mission statement: (1) it provides an engaged, high quality education that focuses on analysis, research and writing—the hallmarks of a liberal arts education; (2) it promotes scholarship—both field and secondary studies in the field and (3) it furthers the CNU goal of service. In fact, the Social Work program represents the very essence of service.

The Social Work program is important to students, the university and the community. I would ask that the Faculty Senate make recommendations that would enable this excellent program to continue.