

Faculty Senate Resolution 2004-05-07

Reduction of scheduling of "Getting Started" week for incoming faculty

(amended 3/18/05)

1. Whereas our institutional focus on excellence in teaching demands that incoming faculty spend adequate time during "Getting Started" week to prepare to teach the following week the specific courses to which they have been assigned, because
 - i. contracts do not start until the Monday of "Getting Started" week, making it inappropriate to expect incoming faculty to prepare *prior* to then, and
 - ii. teaching assignments are often not finalized until approximately that time, in any case, and
 - iii. even if they *were* inclined to prepare further in advance and they *did* receive their teaching assignment in advance, they may have difficulty finding and meeting with veteran faculty members in order to receive specific information (books, software, facilities, etc) about the specific courses which they are supposed to teach, and
2. Whereas during August 2004 that week involved 25 - 35 hours of meetings for first-year faculty (See www.cnu.edu/facsen/04_05/misc/startup.xls for a breakdown of this.), with the exact amount of time depending on how are interpreted phrases such as " ... (faculty) should give the highest possible priority to honoring the efforts of our presenting colleagues by attending and participating in the TLSR conference on Wednesday and Thursday," and
3. Whereas there exist timeslots available later in the academic year (e.g., 12:15 - 1:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays) when all of the new faculty would be available to participate in meetings or and other functions which have in the past taken place during "Getting Started" week,

THEREFORE, the Faculty Senate of Christopher Newport University recommends that the number of hours required and/or expected for incoming faculty to attend meetings and other functions during "Getting Started Week" be reduced to 20 hours or less.

Sponsors: Peter Knipp and Lori Underwood