

Academic Council News and Updates

October, 2014

Hello everyone! The Academic Council and all of its corresponding committees have been very busy this Autumn Term. Please find below news and updates that we would like to share.

I. Academic Council Committee Elections and Election Results:

The Academic Council held its second election during the Autumn Term. This most recent election was to help fill vacant seats on the Academic Council committees. The process to establish a consistent election process that includes term length and rotation of members and co-chairs is currently being established and that process will hopefully be in place for Spring Term, with regular elections to follow. Faculty members who were elected to serve through the vacant seat vote are in the process of committee selection and committees will be notified soon.

Congratulations to the following faculty members who were elected in the vacant seat vote to serve on one of the Academic Council Committees:

Dane Galden – Business Management

Patricia May-Woods – Early Childhood Development

Henry Bawden – Interactive Media

Annie Parsons – Geographic Information Systems

Frank Barnhart – Communication

Erica Swarts – Social Sciences

Karen Rippe – Biological and Physical Sciences

Jeanette Ferguson – Biological and Physical Sciences

Jennifer Nardone – Humanities

Bree Frick – Psychology

Irene Petten – Social Sciences

Lauren Jones – Developmental Education

Ellen Stadler – Developmental Education

Brent Funderburk – Social Sciences Department

II. Student Evaluations – The company that provides the college with the paper and pencil student evaluations that are given to students to complete in class, will no longer be able to provide their services to the college beginning Spring 2015. The college was informed that the company would not be available just a few weeks ago. Several Academic Council Committees (Instructional Success, Faculty Entry Training and Professional Development, Tenure and Promotion and Assessment) are currently reviewing the Student Evaluation Process and looking at alternative vendors for the service. No decisions have been made as of yet, but the committees are in conversations with a new vendor and exploring alternatives. If a decision is not reached by Spring Term 2015, the online student evaluations will still be available, and will continue to be available until a decision is reached.

III. Honors Committee News and Updates

A. Honors Program – The Honors Program is enjoying its first success term here at Columbus State. Honors courses are in session and students have been assigned faculty mentors to work with. Congratulations to Rebecca Mobley (Honors Faculty Fellow) and all the members of the Honors Committee for their dedication and hard work in making Honors a reality at Columbus State. If you would like to know more about the Honor's Program at Columbus State, or participating in the Honors faculty mentor program, please contact, Rebecca Mobley, Honors faculty Fellow, Amy Delorenzo (Honors Committee Co-Chair), or Rita Rice (Honors Committee Co-Chair)

B. Society of the Compass – The Society of the Compass is a prestigious student award developed to honor academic success. If you have an outstanding student that you would like to nominate please see the following link for more information:

<http://www.csc.edu/academics/departments/society-of-compass/>

IV. Digital Committee News and Updates

Apple Initiative and Apple Professional Development – The first three cohorts of twenty faculty have now participated in the Apple Professional Development opportunity. The majority of the faculty that participated in the training were invited to the pilot cohorts because they were already working on digitally enhancing a course through the Textbook Affordability Process, a Straight A Grant, or departmental and division requests for course digitization. The plan is to open up the Apple Professional Development Training to all full-time faculty very soon through an application process. An application is currently under review and should be out to faculty very soon to apply for Spring Term cohorts. A similar application process is also underdevelopment for faculty who wish to develop an iBook through iBooks Author.

V. Student Support Committee News and Updates

Blackboard Gradebook Use – The Student Support Committee would like to remind everyone that beginning this term – Autumn 2014, all faculty should be using the Blackboard Gradebook for regular submission of student grades. This decision was made in Spring of 2014 in order to allow for other campus systems, particularly Early Alert/Starfish to be able to interact with Blackboard.

VI. Faculty Entry Training and Professional Development News and Updates

Distinguished Teaching Award Guidelines - The Faculty Entry, Training and Professional Development Committee recently updated and reviewed the Distinguished Teaching Award Guidelines and the DTA Portfolio Guidelines. These guidelines are still the pilot phase of development but will be put into use for this year's Distinguished Teaching Awards. More information about the Distinguished

Teaching Award can be found at:

<http://www.csc.edu/about/faculty/awards/TeachingAwards.shtml>.

Nominations close October 31st, 2014, so be sure to get yours in.

VII. Tenure and Promotion Process Committee News and Updates

The Promotion and Tenure Process Committee invites you to share your feedback on the proposed changes to the promotion and tenure process and the revised Promotion and Tenure Handbook. There are two forums planned for Friday, October 24, 2014: one in the morning, from 10:00 – 11:00, and the other in the afternoon, from 2:30 – 3:30. (Locations will be announced later.) If you are unable to make either of the forums, feedback may be emailed to the chairs of the committee, Antoinette Perkins and Holly Finnegan.

An email went out earlier this term that included an attachment with the Handbook and Information on the proposed changes. If you have any questions, please email Antoinette Perkins or Holly Finnegan (Tenure and Promotion Process Committee Co-Chairs).

One important note: The implementation of these changes is planned for the 2015-2016 academic year, so those faculty turning in portfolios this coming January, 2015, will not be affected in this promotion cycle. Those portfolios should be presented in the current format.

VIII. Curriculum Committee News and Updates

The Curriculum voted to support the implementation of the ALEKS mathematics placement testing system. This motion was reviewed and approved by the Academic Council Co-Chairs and then sent on to the new Placement Testing Task Force for consideration as the task force reviews all the placement testing options and procedures at the college.

IX. Assessment Committee News and Updates

The Assessment Committee revised Procedure 5-18 C to reflect the changes to the college's Assessment structure. Revisions included the elimination of the verbiage of "Office of Assessment", the addition of Academic Council Assessment

Committee and Assessment Fellow and simplification of the organization of the document for clarity. Major revisions to the Assessment Handbook were also conducted to reflect current assessment practices. A copy of the revised Assessment Handbook can be found at: <http://www.csc.edu/about/assessment/>.

Division Service Opportunities will be available on Division Assessment Committees. The role of theSee what Adam sent.

If you would like to participate please contact Adam Moskowitz or April Magoteaux (Assessment Faculty Fellows)

X. Service Learning Committee News and Updates

Service Learning Program –There are now 11 courses across various disciplines that have been approved as S-designated courses. Five of those courses are being taught this autumn semester which includes 13 different faculty and approximately 400 students. In the upcoming spring semester there will be 8 service-learning courses offered.

Division service-learning committees have been established to support the work of the College committee and inform/train/mentor faculty in departments all over campus to incorporate service-learning in their courses.

The next due date for faculty to submit their courses for S-designation approval is Friday, October 24. Submit the course proposal to servicelearning@csc.edu.

If you would like more information on getting involved with Service Learning, creating a Service Learning Course or have information about a potential Service partnership please contact Lisa Briggs or Nancy Pine, Service Learning Committee Co-Chairs.