CENTER FOR TEACHING AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

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MISSION STATEMENT

The CCSU Center for Teaching and Faculty Development (CTFD) helps faculty achieve their full potential as teachers and scholars so they can effectively and creatively support student learning.

To realize this mission, CTFD will:

• Provide programming that broadens faculty pedagogical exploration and reflection
• Design, promote and host activities so both full-time and part-time faculty may form professional and collaborative connections across the university and with the larger state community
• Support ongoing efforts, either in campus-wide committees, in departments or within specific courses, to enhance student performance and service
• Post faculty news on a monthly basis and serve as a clearinghouse for information on successful teaching strategies, and provide a forum for conversations that promote innovation, intellectual vitality, and ongoing growth and development for faculty and students
• Advocate for including ongoing instructional improvement and the study of pedagogical practices as an expectation for all faculty and a factor of significant weight in the Promotion and Tenure process.
OVERVIEW

In the last decade, CCSU has offered professional development programming for faculty, but Dr. Lemma, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Graduate Studies, handled it in addition to many other duties. By 2010, she began talking to Dr. Carl Lovitt about shifting the work out of her office.

In the last five years, more and more universities nationwide have formed official Centers for Teaching and Learning and Faculty Development (or a some variation on that title), which include a physical office on campus, a director (usually a faculty member who receives some reassigned time), a board of advisors, a website, and a mandate to provide regular programming. After Professor Collins won the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010, she was eager to find other ways to expand beyond the classroom and contribute to campus life. When she approached Dr. Carl Lovitt about possible venues, he mentioned that Dr. Lemma wanted to stop overseeing the faculty development programming and that it was probably time to appoint an official director. Professor Collins accepted the offer to take on that role.

Spring 2012

In January 2012, Professor Collins took on the new administrative position as the Director for the CCSU Center for Teaching and Faculty Development (CTFD). She receives three credit hours of course reassigned time each term for her work with CTFD. The Deans suggested potential candidates for a Board of Advisors, and with Professor Collins they worked out a new Mission Statement and some programming ideas.

In the spring 2012 term the CTFD managed to launch a new website. Though needing improvement, it does contain a calendar of events, a monthly posting of faculty news, a Suggested Reading section, and the list of Excellence in Teaching Award Winners. We hope to use a CCSU design class this spring to dramatically upgrade the site.

CTFD invited Dr. Deresiewicz, a nationally recognized expert on reaching the average student, to help us launch the spring 2012 programming and the revamped center for teaching. The larger theme: “Identifying and Demanding College Level Work.” CCSU faculty followed that talk with hands-on workshops in March 2012, a four-hour program that covered using technology in the classroom, building effective community engagement projects, and addressing student anxiety in the classroom (with a special focus on math and writing).
FALL 2012

We feel that the true launch of the new Center for Teaching and Faculty Development happened this fall. During the spring, we spent a lot of time catching up on what had already been done in faculty development prior to 2012. Where precisely should the Center fit into the larger framework of various committees, centers, departments, and programs already in place at CCSU? The fact-finding missions took a lot of time, which is why we have not been prepared to report to the Faculty Senate until now.

The Learning Curve:

- In October 2012 Professor Collins attended a professional conference in Seattle for three days for directors of faculty centers from around the country. Almost 1000 people were in attendance and she gained a much broader understanding of the role that a Center can play for a university.
- She organized a meeting with her counterparts at ECSU, SCSU, and WCSU. They met for five hours at SCSU in November. She feels this was the most productive step she’s taken to date as Director; she learned that each of the universities is at a different stage of development, with CCSU about on par with where WCSU stands—one faculty with 3 credit hours of reassigned time each term and just starting an official center. In contrast, SCSU’s director receives 9 credit hours of reassigned time each term and has extensive support, including staff and an office.

Sample Programming, Fall 2012

- CTFD organized Learning Community Groups (LCGs) on 5 subject areas that involve about 50 faculty members. After selecting their own themes, they work independently but across departments. For example, Dr. Kara Russell, an adjunct from the English Department, formed a Learning Community Group centered on using Writing Templates. Members from science, engineering and English have joined the group in order to share and compare such pedagogical strategies as templates, target goals, and learning outcomes.
- Dr. Richard Arum, author of Academically Adrift, came to speak in September and helped us officially launched the CTFD programming for 2012-13. More than 50 faculty members attended, and LCG leaders announced their themes and recruited new members.
Planned Programming, Spring 2013

- **February 6**: The Information Literate Student, a hands-on workshop with three Emerson College faculty, will explore what it means for students to be information literate in the 21st Century and what faculty can do in their classes to help students achieve that additional literacy. The CCSU Library is co-sponsoring this event with CTFD. Learning Community Groups will also report in at this event on their projects.

- **February 20**: This workshop on how to respond to and build off of weak student evaluations assumes that all faculty members receive some poor evaluations at some point. We rarely discuss that fact, however, which can be especially daunting for untenured faculty. The CTFD Board wants to create a space where faculty can discuss this issue candidly and without feeling stigmatized for attending.

- **April 19**: The First Annual Faculty Day will include many events. In the morning, faculty who already teach online and hybrid classes will offer a hands-on session in the Constitution Room that demonstrates various teaching techniques; the LCGs will report on their programs for the year; all faculty will be invited to a free lunch; the Excellence in Teaching Awards will be awarded in the afternoon.

**The Website**

The primary purpose of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development is to help faculty share information and to provide programming that enhances teaching and scholarly work. This spring CTFD will work with the Design Department to dramatically improve the website which, in addition to what is already on there, will include:

- A fuller suggested reading list
- A one-stop location for information on the Senate-approved process for offering an online or hybrid course at CCSU, including a list of mentors, suggested reading, the appropriate form, list of important contacts that can help with technical assistance, and suggested training options (CT Distance Learning Consortium, for example, offers a 4-week training course)
- Videotapes of guest speakers and workshops
- Possible Chat Rooms or Discussion Boards where faculty can exchange ideas on pedagogy
- Links to conferences on teaching, such as the one this June on technology in the classroom at Quinnipiac University
Other Immediate Goals:

• Work with the Faculty Senate and CCSU-AAUP as CCSU faculty address the shifting landscape in online and hybrid learning.
• Establish a collaborative partnership with the IDTRC, which has a new director, David Oyandel, who worked at ECSU for 17 years.
• Approve a theme for events for 2013-2014 and begin to lay the groundwork for those events. Tentative idea: On Ground to Online: Exploring the Pros and Cons of Technology in the Classroom
• Once the new building is complete, and staff in DiLoreto and Willard shift around, CTFD will have a physical office and will probably be in the same space as the Instruction, Design and Technology Resource Center.

BUDGET

$7650 for the academic year (just reduced 5 percent due to budget cuts).

Money is used for:

• guest speakers
• food at events
• joint projects with other CCSU organizations, such as FYE training or co-sponsored events with the library
• fees for faculty who wish to attend training for teaching-related skill enhancement

Now that the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development has a Board of Advisors, a Mission Statement, some plans for the spring and a new office on the horizon, we feel ready to approach the Senate for advice on how to continue to shape the overall direction of the enhanced center. Would it be possible for you to place us on a Senate meeting agenda early in the Spring 2013 term? Director Mary Collins and other CTFD Board Members would attend. In addition to updating the Senate on the CTFD’s recent changes and future goals, we would like to field questions from the Senators and to administer a survey that will take only a few minutes to complete. If we are able to link the report to the Senate agenda, then we can make our presentation in as little as five minutes.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

CTFD Board of Advisor and Associate Professor Mary Collins, Director

collinsmae@ccsu.edu