

## ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF C&S STRATEGIC PLAN

*Affirmed by the C&S Community in May 2011*

Report Prepared by C&S Dean Benjamin Rifkin

### A) Interdisciplinarity

Proposals for new majors already in progress include Religious Studies, Law, Ethics & Politics (LEAP), Classical Studies, and Chinese Studies. We hope to see a proposal for a new major in African-American Studies in the coming year or two. Women's & Gender Studies transitioned from program to department status. New interdisciplinary minors have been created including Public Health and Holocaust & Genocide Studies. Our school is providing leadership in the exploration of new interdisciplinary programming in Geographic Information Systems.

### B) Experiential Learning

Our efforts in the prison outreach program are flourishing, thanks in part to grants won and the leadership of Celia Chazelle and Pat Donohue that help support the Center for Prison Outreach and Education, and to the continuing efforts of Michele Tarter in her program, "inarcerated". After many many meetings, the Japanese Living Learning community has been approved for 2011-2012. We established a Council on Undergraduate Research in C&S to promote undergraduate research in our school. We are collaborating with Pat Donohue on expansion of courses offering CEL-2 accreditation within each major in C&S. A forum on experiential learning in C&S was held in February 2011 (organized by Dr. Michele Tarter); a forum on internships in C&S was held in October 2010 (organized by Dr. Jason Dahling with Lynnette Harris). Neither of these events was well attended, so we will need to identify new ways to reach out to students to provide them with information about these opportunities.

### C) Assessment of Learning Outcomes

A school-wide Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee was created with four members (Dr. Jean Kirnan as chair, with Drs. David Holleran, Rick Kamber, and Simona Wright), who attended IUPUI Assessment Institute in October 2010. This committee is gearing up to support the development of plans to assess learning outcomes within the departments starting in Fall 2011; it will also have the responsibility of approving the plans and receiving and responding to assessment reports. New members of this committee, starting in the Fall of 2011, will be: Drs. Winnifred Brown-Glaude (AAS), Harriet Hustis (English), Michael Marino (History), and Diane Bates (Sociology & Anthropology). A new annual survey on student post-graduate planning to help us improve our efforts to support students in achieving their goals was piloted in Fall 2010 and will be run annually with the help of Dr. Jason Dahling (Psychology) to help us identify student interests in transformative learning experiences and their aspirations for post-graduate work or education. Dr. Dahling will generate brief reports to share with chairs and departments on our progress in areas of concern based on data drawn from the survey.

D) Advising

We established a C&S Ad-Hoc Advising Committee (with faculty, staff, and students, chaired by Dr. Consuelo Preti) to evaluate advising systems within the school and suggest improvements, as well as ways to assess advising without burdening students or advisors. The committee submitted its report in February and the report is attracting much attention from the campus-wide community. We ran fora for faculty and students in late March and early April and have brought this proposal forward in an affirmation process at the end of April.

E) Internationalization

We are seeking to increase the emphasis on study abroad in all majors, with increased attention to study abroad success in weekly messages from dean, including information about scholarship opportunities, both internal (Laurenti and Roebing), and external (e.g., Gilman, Boren). We ran a Forum on study abroad for C&S students in fall 2010; it was poorly attended so we need to identify different approaches to conveying this information to our students. We ran several successful faculty-led study tours in Spring 2010, including the Central Asia Study Tour, photographs of which are now displayed in the Social Science Building Lobby, Dr. Michele Tarter's trips to Cornwall and Harlaxton, and Glenn Steinberg's trip to Greece. We have implemented the new intensive language courses in first-year Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian in 2010-2011, and will begin the new intensive second-year courses in these languages in fall 2011. We will be establishing, as of Fall 2011, the Japanese Living/Learning Community. We have been working closely with Dr. Jon Stauff, Director of the Center for Global Engagement, on study abroad opportunities for our students, including new opportunities in Israel, China, and elsewhere. Dr. Stauff traveled with Dean Rifkin to China to identify appropriate partnerships and study abroad sites there. Dr. Stauff presented to the Chairs Council on curricular integration and we plan to follow up on this topic with discussions within the departments in the coming year leading toward the identification of particular programs abroad that would be a good match for each major in our School.

F) Community

We have finalized the process to change the name of our school to Humanities & Social Sciences effective July 1, 2011. With the help of C&S media assistant, David Karas, and College webmaster Matthew Winkel, we have implemented numerous changes to the C&S website to celebrate students, faculty, and alumni. The Dean has created a new web page entitled "Why major in the liberal arts?" that has been added to the website. The Dean sends out weekly messages to the community including announcements in the categories of congratulations, opportunities, and events. We have brought interesting speakers and performances to campus and have co-sponsored speakers and performances brought by other units: Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, Holocaust Remembrance Week, Baseball & Material Culture, Path to Freedom for Black Families in NJ, John Rawls Theory of Justice Symposium, Politics Forum including Presentation by US Assistant Attorney Robert Zauzmer and Journalism Professor Emilie Lounsberry on Tension between Free Press and Fair Trial (in honor of Constitution Day), Lebab Turkmen of Central Asia, Sid Bernstein, Katherine Hempstead, Silk Road Dance

Company, The Life of a Foreign Correspondent, Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence, Visiting Writers (including Lynn Powell, Aimee Bender), Dr. Wade Davis, and more. The first Socrates Café was run in April 2011, but it was poorly attended. We will have to work on new ways to run and publicize this event for next year. We continue to be the home for Close Readings (run by the English Department) and the Politics Forum (run by Political Science), programs supported by the Office of Academic Affairs. We held a special school-wide field trip to see RACE in Philadelphia, including faculty, students, staff, and alumni in the trip. We hope to make such a trip an annual event. This spring, for the first time, we ran a school-wide commencement celebration to provide our graduating seniors with a last taste of the community of the School before they disperse to the four corners of the earth. The Dean has been taking meals with students periodically throughout the year to listen to student concerns and bring them back to others as appropriate.

#### G) Diversity

We established a Diversity Advisory Council, chaired by Dr. Ann Marie Nicolosi, which has proposed a campus-wide survey on diversity climate. That proposal is currently in HR for consideration.

#### H) Intellectual Climate

We continue to model the value of reasoned discourse in civil society in our Politics Forum, including Professor Kim Pearson on Democratic Media; the Socrates Café will also help us promote this value. We ran a special politics forum to analyze the mid-term election and co-sponsored a talk by Parry Shen on Asian Americans in the Media. We collaborated in the running of TransGender Awareness Week with some bathrooms declared gender-neutral. We cosponsored the Liberty Seminar (discussing “what is liberty”).

#### I) Faculty Development

No searches were undertaken in Fall 2010, but requests for searches for Fall 2011 were put forward to the Provost in accordance with the School’s mission, goals, and strategic plans. School-wide faculty mentoring programs have not yet unfolded beyond assessment (see above), but we have begun to discuss this issue at Chairs Council meetings.

#### J) Alumni Relations

We sponsored a talk by alumnus Yassin El-Ayouty in October and co-sponsored a talk by a recent alumnus, James Van Strander, currently in law school. The Alumni Advisory Council has been established, with 18 members. We held its inaugural meeting over dinner on Thursday, April 28. Several TCNJ alumni participated in our field trip to RACE and went with a group of faculty to dinner immediately following the performance. We look forward to engaging more alumni in more events in the coming years.

#### K) Community Outreach

Our collaboration with the Bonner Center continues to expand opportunities for students to engage with the community and for the community to come on to our campus. We have worked with Dean Laughton and his team in the School of the Arts & Communication to publicize arts events open to the public, including our International Film Festival.

#### L) Leadership and Governance

We are currently working on developing a governance system for school-wide issues. The Student Advisory Council is established and running beautifully, meeting twice a month on Thursday afternoons with extraordinary focus. The Alumni Advisory Council is in progress and met for the first time on April 28, 2011 (see above). The Community Advisory Council will be established in the 2011-2012 academic year. The Curriculum Committee has begun its transition to an elected committee (with its two newest members elected in Spring 2010 and serving three-year terms beginning Fall 2010) chaired by a faculty member (Dr. Pierre Le Morvan). Student representatives joined this committee for the first time. Two more non-elected faculty members will cycle off in Spring 2011 as two new members will be elected to begin service in Fall 2011. The process will be complete in Fall 2012. The Diversity Advisory Council has begun its transition to an elected committee in the Spring 2011 semester with elections for two three-year terms on the council (Fall 2011 through Spring 2014) as two non-elected members cycle off. This report, evaluating progress toward the achievement of milestones in our Strategic Plan, has been reviewed by department chairs, faculty more generally, staff, and students, and will ultimately be posted to our School's website.

#### M) Fundraising and Development

Departments have created a list of fundraising priorities for small and large gifts and The Dean has collated this information into a larger Culture and Society wish list and appeal. The departments also created paragraph-long descriptions of their success that were inserted into the annual dean's letter of appeal. The Dean has gathered together considerable information for Cognitive Marketing and Development on the areas of focus and need within Culture & Society.

#### N) Technology

The School continues to run its IT Roundtable

#### O) Office and Classroom Space

Ad-hoc committee of faculty and staff reviewed the use of classroom space (allocation of priority classrooms by program) in the Spring 2010 semester and deferred any reallocation of classrooms at that time. A reassessment of this plan is currently underway and will conclude by the end of June 2011.

#### Addendum:

The School of Culture & Society acknowledges the successful growth of the graduate program in English, including the new 5-year BA/MA.