

TCNJ FACULTY SENATE

NEWSLETTER FALL/ 2014

Greetings from Faculty Senate President

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING (CETL)

The TCNJ Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) was established in the fall of 2009, following extensive conversation by the Teacher-Scholar Task Force, a Faculty Senate/CFA Committee on Teaching Excellence, and an Ad hoc Committee on Teaching and Learning Initiatives. The current CETL has its roots in the Trenton State College Center for Instructional Enhancement (CIE). CIE was a resource for faculty from 1988 until its closure in 1991. The faculty, and in particular Mort Winston, were instrumental in establishing an institutionalized vehicle for continued focus on excellence in teaching and learning. As the newest iteration of a teaching and learning center, the CETL continues in its mission to “advance student engagement and learning by promoting professional growth and development for faculty and for staff directly engaged in instructional endeavors.” Since its creation, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has been led by several individuals, with Mark Kiselica, Deb Knox, and most recently Brenda Leake, serving as Director. In addition to the Center, the Teaching and Learning Program Council (TLPC) was also established in 2009 as an advisory council for the Director and to place the activities of the Center formally within the College governance structure. Shortly after Brenda was named its

newest Director at the beginning of the fall 2014 semester, she and I sat down to speak about her current initiatives and goals for the future.

For the past several years, the CETL has organized a number of ongoing programs, and under Brenda’s leadership, these will continue, although some of the details of their operations may be modified slightly. In the *Good Reads* program, interested participants read a common book, selected by TLPC following suggestions from anyone in the community, and then the individuals got together for discussion. The *Learning Communities* program brought together groups of 8-12 faculty and staff members to address an area of educational interest and concern. A previous Learning Community topic, for example, was “Teaching and Learning for Global Citizenship.” The Campus should anticipate announcements regarding the spring 2015 semester re-activation of both of these CETL sponsored programs.

During this transition period, the Center has continued to offer workshops for new faculty, both tenure-track and full-time visiting professors. These workshops have covered a range of institutional programs, including the Mentored Undergraduate



Summer Experience (MUSE) and the First Seminar Program (FSP). The CETL's major focus this fall, however, has been on gathering input from various members of the TCNJ community and clarifying budgetary and programmatic issues to facilitate informed decision making in the future.

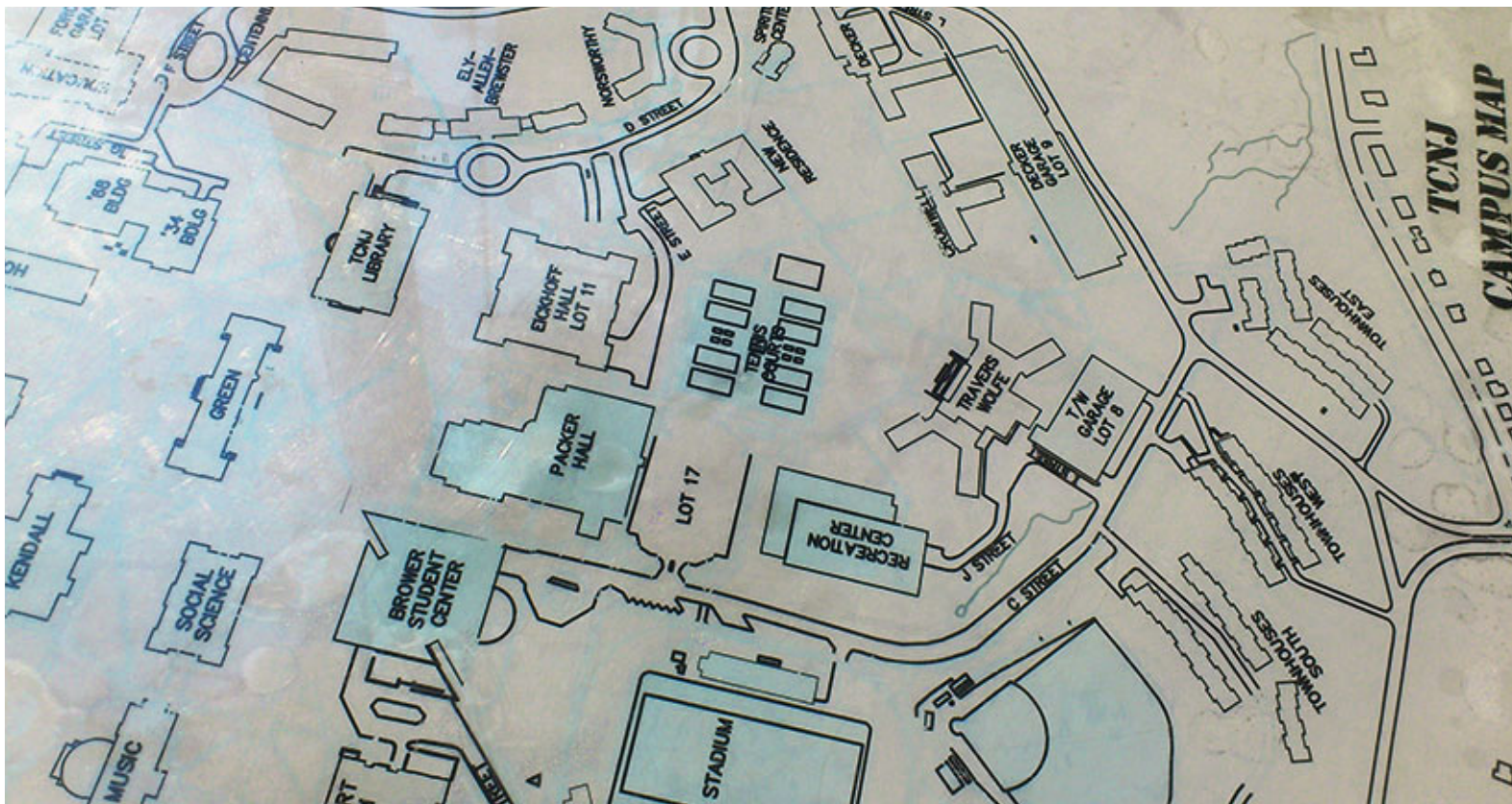
This spring, the Center will develop a new initiative focused on mentoring. The ultimate goal is to establish a campus-wide mentoring program that could match appropriate mentors with expertise in different areas with faculty at all ranks. Initially, however, the CETL will focus on developing pre-tenure level mentoring programs. Brenda envisions offering training for both potential mentors and mentees, perhaps even creating a certificate program to provide formal training for mentors. Individuals may seek mentoring in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to scholarly activity, teaching and instruction, professional development, and even work-life balance. As the Center gets this initiative off the ground, Brenda hopes to expand the mentoring program to include faculty at all stages of their careers.

Since its creation, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning hasn't really been a Center in the truest sense of the word, as it has not had a physical location. This fall however, the CETL found a home at 209 Kendall Hall. The office for the Director of the Center for Instructional Design, Judi Cook, is located in adjacent space, providing ample opportunity for interaction and collaboration between the two Centers. At the time of our conversation, the CETL had not yet moved into Kendall. Currently the space is being modified to better accommodate the needs of CETL, but it is anticipated that a full move-in will take place in January 2015. Brenda was very excited at the prospect of the Center's

having dedicated space. She had a clear vision for creating a professional and safe environment both to house resources and to provide a welcoming, yet neutral, location for honest exchange among the faculty.

Since its initial conception, the reality of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has developed gradually. In its early years, the Center and TLPC built a strong foundation and established several successful programs that promote campus dialogue around issues related to teaching, instruction, and student learning. With Brenda's appointment as Director, the creation of the Center for Instructional Design, and now a new physical space for the CETL, there is a palpable sense of excitement about the potential for continued growth and expansion of the Center's offerings. As a campus, we are currently engaged in discussion regarding the role of technology in deepening student learning, and the Center should play a pivotal role in guiding our conversations. Brenda believes that the CETL can be a valuable resource for the entire campus, providing support within and across disciplines. According to Brenda, "the work of the Center is envisioned to serve as a catalyst and provide multifaceted support to enhance the excitement and efficacy of the faculty and of the staff directly engaged in instructional endeavors."

Amanda Norvell, Department of Biology
norvell@tcnj.edu



WELCOME TO DR. JUDI COOK

Dr. Judi Cook has joined TCNJ as the inaugural Director of Instructional Design. Prior to her arrival at TCNJ, Dr. Cook was a faculty member in the Communications Department at Salem State University, where she also served as Chair. Dr. Cook has significant expertise in online instruction, as well as in the development of online and blended courses.

AN: Please tell me about your scholarly interests.

JC: I'm interested in all things having to do with media studies. Digital media and emerging technologies are two specific areas that I find fascinating. At my previous institution, I developed an elective course on communication and technology that I taught online every summer. It was a fun course to teach, and I enjoyed sharing my passion for this topic with students.

In terms of research, my most recent work was a collaborative project on fan culture. It wasn't specifically about technology, but technology factored in given the ways fans today use the internet for connecting with one another. I have also worked on projects looking at media and children. I had a wonderful opportunity a few years ago to do some work for the International Central Institute for Youth & Educational Television (IZI) in Germany.

AN: What interested you in the position of Director of Instructional Design at TCNJ?

Having been a faculty member for 16 years at my previous institution, I know first hand how important it is for faculty to have support for teaching and learning. TCNJ



is clearly committed to providing faculty with what they need to be the best at what they do. Contributing to the creation of a TCNJ Office of Instructional Design appealed to me because I could see myself making a positive contribution on this campus and empowering faculty.

I like to explore ways that technology can be used to solve problems. If there is a teaching challenge that someone is experiencing and there could be a way to solve it with technology, I'd like to be part of helping a faculty member get to that solution. Technology isn't always the answer, but figuring out whether it is (or is not) interests me. I like the challenge of selecting a tool, testing it out, and assessing its effectiveness.

AN: Recognizing that you have only been here a few months, what do you see as your most pressing challenges?

JC: One of the biggest challenges is figuring out how best to connect with faculty and provide them with what they need to be successful. I want to offer a combination of one-on-one meetings, hands-on workshops, online institutes, drop-in office hours and other programs as well. Right now I am formulating an idea as to what people need. I want the Office of Instructional Design to be a resource that faculty choose to go through and not around, and in this way I can help different departments share their success stories with other parts of the campus. One thing that I've noticed in my first two months here is that there are a lot of exciting, innovative applications of technology already happening on the TCNJ campus. I want to shed light on those successes and help foster the development of future projects.

AN: What else would you like the faculty to know about you?

JC: I hope faculty will see me as a partner and a resource for exploring ways to successfully integrate technology into their courses. This can be something as simple as figuring out how to leverage the tools in Canvas for a traditional course or developing digital resources to supplement the work that happens in the classroom. For faculty going further and experimenting with the development of blended or online offerings, I have a lot to share from my own experiences and from external resources for best practices in online education.



Mildred Dahne Award for Academic Excellence: Call for Applications

The Faculty Senate's Mildred Dahne Award Committee calls for applications for the 11th annual Mildred Dahne Award for department or program excellence. This award includes a cash prize of \$4000 to \$8000, depending on market conditions and the earnings realized from the fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year. The prize may be used to augment departmental funds or as stipend and professional development funds that may be used to cover the costs of attending conferences, the purchase of equipment and resource materials, etc. Any academic department or program (including library) may apply for the award. However, no department or program may receive the award more than once in a five-year period. Past winners are Philosophy and Religion (2004-05), Women's and Gender Studies (2005-06), Biology and Elementary and Early Childhood Education (co-winners in 2006-07), Psychology (2007-08), English and Sociology and Anthropology (co-winners 2008-2009), Accounting (2009-2010), Technological Studies (2010-2011), Special Education, Language, and Literacy (2011-2012), Health and Exercise Science (2012-2013), and Mathematics and Statistics (2013-2014).

The winning applications from past years and instructions for applying are on the Faculty Senate webpage:

www.tcnj.edu/~senate/dahneaward.html.

Application Deadline: February 16, 2015.

For further information contact the Committee chair:

Marcia O'Connell, moconnel@tcnj.edu



Senate Research Colloquium: Call for Nominations

The Senate Committee on Intellectual Community calls for nominations for its semi-annual colloquium featuring the research and/or creative activity of TCNJ faculty. Two faculty members will be chosen through the annual nomination and selection process to present their research and participate in a reception to follow in their honor. A colloquium will be conducted each semester, recognizing one faculty member in the fall and one in the spring.

Any full-time tenured faculty member may be nominated by a dean, chair or colleague through a simple application process.

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION

The intention of this Faculty Senate-sponsored initiative is to provide a means to highlight the accomplishments and scholarship of the TCNJ faculty. To this purpose, the Intellectual Community committee requests that nominations for outstanding research or creative work by tenured faculty should come from academic leaders and faculty colleagues.

Nominees should be chosen following these broad guidelines:

- Nominee's research or creative activity is recognized as significant in the respective field of study.
- Nominee can deliver a lecture on his or her research or creative activity that will be of wide interest to the campus community.

NOMINATION /APPLICATION PROCESS

Academic leaders and faculty are invited to nominate a colleague for the 2015-2016 Colloquium for the Recognition of Faculty Research and Creative Activity. To nominate a colleague, please send a one-paragraph email to the Senate secretary, Laurie Wanat, at wanatl@tcnj.edu identifying the nominee and explaining the reason for the nomination.

Applications Due: February 16, 2015

For further information contact the Committee chair:
Cynthia Paces, paces@tcnj.edu

PREVIOUS HONOREES:

Kim Pearson (Journalism and Professional Writing, African-American Studies, Interactive Multi-Media), Fall 2014

Janet Morrison (Biology), Spring 2014

Andrew Leynes (Psychology), Fall 2013

Miriam Lowi (Political Science), Spring 2013

Cynthia Paces (History), Fall 2012

Tim Clydesdale (Sociology), Spring 2012

David Hunt (Chemistry), Fall 2011

David Holmes (Mathematics and Statistics), Spring 2011

Avery Faigenbaum (Health and Exercise Science), Fall 2010

Ellen Friedman (English, Women's and Gender Studies), Spring 2010

Mark Kiselica (Counselor Education), Fall 2009

Bruce Rigby (Art), Spring 2009

Gary Woodward (Communications Studies), Fall 2008

Jo-Ann Gross (History), Spring 2008

Donald Lovett (Biology), Fall 2007

Alan Waterman (Psychology), Spring 2007

FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

FALL 2014



Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)

Michael Marino, Chair, marino@tcnj.edu

Susanna Monseau, Vice-Chair, monseau@tcnj.edu

During the fall 2014 semester, CAP has been gathering testimony on charges pertaining to Academic Integrity, Advising Goals and Practices, and the removal of Liberal Learning domains from FSPs. CAP held an open forum regarding these charges on October 28 and is collecting additional feedback via email and a Qualtrics survey. CAP is also finalizing its recommendation on Grade Appeals, as well as its revisions to the Minors Approval Process. (The process will include procedures unique to interdisciplinary minors, such as the pending minors in Environmental Studies, Environmental Sustainability Education, and Sexuality and Queer Studies). In collaboration with the Committee on Student and Campus Community (CSCC), CAP is working toward finalizing a recommendation on certificate programs at the College that addresses both curricular and co-curricular certificates. CAP anticipates gathering testimony on its certificate recommendation during the spring 2015 semester, along with testimony on its preliminary recommendation regarding an Ungraded Option Policy. Future work includes a policy on undergraduate internships.

Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA)

Valerie Tucci, Chair, vtucci@tcnj.edu

Paul Wiita, Vice-Chair, wiitap@tcnj.edu

CFA is currently working on several charges in various stages of development. (1) At the end of the spring 2014 semester, Steering accepted a preliminary recommendation on the granting of administrative reassigned time and stipends. Steering requested that CFA consult further with the Council of Deans on this charge. (2) In March 2014 CFA was charged with a review of MUSE policies and its RFP. An Open Forum was held in spring 2014. The RFP for the upcoming cycle was approved, and with Steering's approval, FSCPC will undertake a review of the MUSE policies. (3) As part of its review of the Promotions and Reappointment Document, CFA recommended during the spring 2014 semester that tenure and promotion be merged into a single process. CFA is currently working on the next step, determining if the College Promotions Committee should become a College Tenure and Promotion Committee. An Open Forum to gather testimony was held on October 29. The timeline for the joint tenure/promotion process has yet to be determined. (4) CFA is reviewing on an ongoing basis the disciplinary standards for fall hires and for other departments that have revised their standards.



Committee on Strategic Planning and Priorities (CSPP)

*Co-Chairs: Jacqueline Taylor, taylorj@tcnj.edu and Manish Paliwal, paliwal@tcnj.edu
Vice Chair: Shaun Wiley, swiley@tcnj.edu*

CSPP has been working on various aspects of TCNJ's strategic plan. The committee is reviewing progress and identifying focus for the remaining years of the strategic plan. It has also begun the process of developing the next five-year 2016-2020 strategic plan. In addition, the committee reviewed reports from academic and administrative units on strategic planning and implementation, and it plans to review reports from the task forces working on "Signature Experiences" later this year.

Committee on Student and Campus Community (CSCC)

*Chair: Carol Wells, wells@tcnj.edu
Vice Chair: Susan Ryan, ryan@tcnj.edu*

CSCC is currently working on one charge: Certificate Programs. Steering has charged both CAP and CSCC to work on this charge; however, CSCC is involved only in the cases of certificate programs with co-curricular elements. The committee is currently drafting a document outlining the requirements for the co-curricular elements of a certificate program.

Board of Trustees Report

Faculty Representatives:
David Blake, blake@tcnj.edu
Marcia O'Connell, moconnel@tcnj.edu

At its October 7, 2014 meeting, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution endorsing the extension of the Institutional Strategic Plan and a resolution approving the Repeating Courses Policy. Key financial items included approving a modification to the College Investment Policy and the awarding of merit bonuses to non-union employees. Board committees heard presentations on the upcoming Capital Campaign, the percentage of students taught by adjunct instructors at the College, and the design of both the STEM and Student Center building projects. The Board has been engaged in a series of conference calls in response to an external assessment conducted last spring. One group has focused on the recruiting and training of gubernatorially-appointed trustees. Another has explored how to re-design the structure of meetings to create more Board cohesiveness and more interaction with campus constituencies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

•
Wednesday, January 29, Noon: Provost Taylor's address to the faculty, Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall

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Wednesday, March 5, Noon: Colloquium for Faculty Research and Creative Activity, Education 212.
Don Vandegrift, Department of Economics, will speak on
"Land Use and Spillover Effects: The Effect of Wal-Mart and Target on Local Economic Development and the Tax Rate"

•
Wednesday, March 25, 4 pm: Faculty and Administrators Community Event, Social Science Atrium

•
Wednesday, May 6, 4 - 5:30pm: Faculty Happy Hour



OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

The Faculty Senate is made up of forty members elected by the faculty for a term of three years, plus the President of the AFT and the two faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees.

President
AMANDA NORVELL
norvell@tcnj.edu

Vice President
MATTHEW BENDER
bender@tcnj.edu

Parliamentarian
REGINA MORIN
rmorin@tcnj.edu

Staff Secretary
LAURIE WANAT
senate@tcnj.edu

Arts & Communication

Wayne Heisler, Music (15)+
John Leonard, Music (17)
Yifeng Hu, Communications (16)
John Vickerman, Music (17)

Business

Brenda Ghitelescu, Mktg, Mgmt & Interdisc Bus (16)
John McCarty, Mktg, Mgmt & Interdisc Bus (16)
Donka Mirtcheva, Economics (15)
David Prenskey, Mktg, Mgmt & Interdisc Bus (15)

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James Beyers, EECE (16)
Tabitha Dell'Angelo, Urban Ed. (15)
Jody Eberly, EECE (15)+
Brian Girard, EASE (****)

Engineering

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Ralph Edelbach, Technological Studies **
Verdrana Krstic, Civil Engineering (17)
Manish Paliwal, Mechanical Engineering (15)+

Humanities & Social Sciences

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David Blake, English (*)+
Winnifred Brown-Glaude, African-Am. Studies (16)
David Holleran, Criminology (17)
John Landreau, Women's & Gender Studies (17)
Glenn Steinberg, English (16)
Pierre Le Morvan, Philosophy, Relig. & Classics (15)
Robert McGreevey, History (16)

Emily Meixner, English (17)
Regina Morin, World Languages & Cultures (17)+
Cynthia Paces, History (15)+
Michael Robertson, English (15)
Glenn Steinberg, English (16)
Piper Williams, English (15)

Library

Terrence Bennett (15)
Cathy Weng (17)

Nursing, Health and Exercise Science

Anne Farrell, Health & Exercise Science (14)
Tami Jakubowski, Nursing (15)

Science

Benny Chan, Chemistry (16)
Jana Gevertz, Mathematics & Statistics (17)
Danielle Guarracino, Chemistry (16)
Marcia O'Connell, Biology (*)+
Amanda Norvell, Biology (15)+
Farshid Safi, Mathematics & Statistics (17)
Andrea Salgian, Computer Science (15)
Paul Wiita, Physics (17)+
Matt Wund, Biology (***)
Paul Wiita, Physics (14)

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- + Senate Executive Board Member
 - * Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
 - ** AFT Representative
 - *** One year Replacement for Cindy Curtis ('16)
 - **** One year Replacement for Colette Gosselin

Comments or Suggestions? Send them to: senate@tcnj.edu TCNJ

Faculty Senate Website: <http://facultysenate.pages.tcnj.edu/>