

Senate Growth and Development Committee
Meeting Minutes 12.2.2016
12:00-1:00pm
Senate Conference Room, Hall Building

Guest: Carol Polifroni, Professor of Nursing, Dean of the School of Nursing, and Director of the Office of Public Engagement.

Present: Katrina Higgins, Robert Bird, Tracie Borden, Greg Bouquot, Min Lin, Freddy Santiago, Tina McCarthy, Michelle Judge, Lyle Scruggs, Nick Ferron, Faquir Jain, Kylene Perras, Danielle Bergmann

Minutes

Committee members introduced themselves. The minutes for the Senate Growth and Development Committee meeting held on October 28, 2016 were approved.

Dr. Polifroni explained that engagement of one of UConn's core values and one of five areas that constitute UConn's strategic goals. Almost every school has engagement activities though level of participation varies from school to school. Dr. Polifroni then summarized the history and development of the Office of Public Engagement. UConn received the "Community Engagement" classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2010. In 2015, UConn was the only school in Connecticut that was listed on the White House honor roll for community activity.

Dr. Polifroni noted that OPE's focus is on work that is reciprocal, relevant, and responsive. There is a need to change the reputation that UConn engagement is temporary and one-sided, and that needs to be changed. OPE's goal is to not only meet UConn's needs but also meet the needs of the community being served. Engagement will not be 'for' the community, but 'with' the community.

The cities collaborative was cited as an example. The City of Bridgeport was identified as a viable community and the major identified environmental issues as a key need. Thirty students and five faculty members worked on ocean management by creating natural barriers. They also did a use analysis regarding what's the best occupancy for a future eco-techpark. The Bridgeport Business Council estimated that the average contribution was valued at \$375,000-390,000 each semester.

Another emphasis discussed was service learning to give our students real life experience. Such learning brings our students to where the point of contact is. Studies have shown that service learning enhances participation rate and meets the need of the community. In 2011, UConn had 30 service learning courses, which has grown to 120 by 2016. There is now a designation on a student's transcript – "SL" to identify a service learning course. Service learning courses are now on all regional campuses. A faculty fellows program exists to educate faculty on service learning. Service learning hours for faculty, staff, and students across all campus amount to 1.6 million hours per year.

OPE is also interested in creating a database in order to determine what representatives from UConn are engaged with a particular external entity. This would include, for example, coordinating engagement with Hartford community partners. OPE is working with Lloyd Blanchard in maintaining this database so a single entry point is available. Right now entity contacts are on a person-to-person level. That's an advantage of decentralization, but further work needs to be done to coordinate efforts. This is motivated not by a need to control but to understand what is happening across the university. The lack

of coordination currently is a bottleneck for UConn that needs to be overcome in order to better show the impact that UConn is having to our communities and our state. We need to show how our work contributes from an economic perspective.

There are three priorities for 2017. The first goal is to improve coordination as mentioned above. The second goal is to graduate an engaged citizenry. As of March 2016 we are part of Campus Compact that emphasize the importance of social just. We want to create a civic action plan university wide. This action plan is looking at civic action as well as environmental awareness. We want to conduct an inventory of what's happening on campus as well as a civic action plan going forward. David Gregorio is leading that initiative. Finally, we want to advance a culture of health similar to that expressed in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Public engagement could embrace this culture of health and give coordination to activities to office of public engagement as well as help to create a healthy society.

The meeting ended at 10:55am.