



FORTNIGHT

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WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning “fourteen nights.” Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

RECAP OF 2010-2011, AND A LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

This issue marks the end of the third year of our publication of **FORTNIGHT** – 42 issues to date. In this last issue of the year, it has become our tradition to reflect upon some of the major campus initiatives and accomplishments of the year just ending, note challenges, and look ahead to the coming academic semesters.

Middle States Self-Study Process – More than 130 people participated in 7 Working Groups and 3 Advocate Groups in a process that continued this year from the group formation in February 2010. The Special Emphasis of our self-study, *developing and strengthening assessment and evidence-based decision-making to continue building institutional effectiveness*, is the focus and thread of each of the Working Group reports. In the midst of the process, 22 people from across the campus represented CSI at the annual Middle States conference in Philadelphia last December. At the present time, the Working Group reports are being compiled and woven into one unified self-study draft. Our Special Resource Committee, representing many functional areas of the College necessary to the hosting of a visit, is ramping up its efforts. Hotel reservations have already been made, and plans are developing for organizing our document repository.

Activities over the summer will include major efforts to organize the document repository for the visit by the review team in April. Department Chairs have been made aware of the curriculum vitae and syllabus collection processes, and outreach to each department is ongoing. This work will continue into the fall semester, as we will need to meet major milestones including the preliminary campus visit by the Chair of the evaluation team in December, submission of documents, and the development of an hour-by-hour schedule for the four-day review team visit.

Strategic Planning Process – More than 90 representatives from across the campus began meeting in October 2010 to research and develop goals for our six Strategic Planning Directions. Our new mission, vision, and values statements were adopted by the Institutional Planning Committee, which serves as the Steering Committee for the process, and presented to College Council. Planning for the implementation of the Strategic Directions is now underway.

Faculty Handbook Revision – A team of faculty including Bernard Domanski (Computer Science), Cary Karacas (PEP), Mary O'Donnell (Nursing), Syed Rizvi (Engineering Science and Physics), and Cindy Wong (Media Culture) met during the year and worked with Dean Christine Flynn Saulnier to produce a new faculty handbook, since the College was operating with an outdated document. Items such as the new College Mission, external accreditation, syllabus formats, plagiarism, harassment, and privacy policies are included in this revision, which has also been reviewed numerous times by the General Chairs and has been sent to the entire faculty for comment. The final document will be posted to the College website at www.csi.cuny.edu/facultystaff. A similar resource for adjunct faculty has also been in the works, as part of a project following the outline of this handbook revision.

General Education Overarching Goals – Following the work done in 2009-2010 and the participation of a CSI team at the AAC&U General Education Assessment Institute last June at the University of Vermont, a set of eight overarching goals was approved unanimously by the General Education Committee. They will be presented to Faculty Senate in the fall.

The campus community has worked in a concerted, collaborative way to advance many initiatives this academic year. We look forward to further progress on the aforementioned projects and new challenges in 2011-2012!



CAMPUS UPDATES

Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee – The committee met on May 18 to discuss this year's accomplishments, in addition to reviewing communication options and document-sharing on its new Blackboard site. Much of the agenda was spent discussing preparations for the Middle States site visit, scheduled for April 1-4, 2012. Associate Provost Susan Holak shared documents and suggestions from other institutions outside the CUNY System that had just completed their 2011 visits.

Summer Freshman Orientation Preparation – Dr. Sam Michalowski, Warrick Bell, and Barbara Cohen have been meeting with Brian DeLong and Christopher Cruz Cullari regarding assessment planning for the new two-day summer orientation. This year, more than 2,000 students are expected to participate across 9 orientation sessions, starting on June 11-12. In previous years' orientations, students were asked to complete a Health Needs Assessment Survey, a survey for Student Life, and evaluations of the orientation events themselves.

Faculty Center for Professional Development – Even while awaiting the completion of its allocated space on the second floor of the Library, the Center sponsored its first event, open to the campus community. Dr. Tisha Bender, Assistant Director of the Livingston Writing Program at Rutgers University, an accomplished hybrid and online instructor, presented on topics related to hybrid course teaching. She shared her suggestions and observations with an overflow audience, along with a survey instrument for assessing hybrid course experiences.

CLOSING THE LOOP: ADVANCEMENT OFFICE REVISES PROCEDURES FOR PHONATHONS

An annual phonathon is but one element among a variety of ways in which College Advancement and Alumni Offices keep in touch with alumni, participate in fundraising, and, often, connect alumni with students. The College of Staten Island has had relatively modest phonathon efforts in previous years. With the reorganization of the College Advancement Office under VP Barbara Eshoo and the recent arrival of Dr. Kenneth Boyden, AVP of Advancement, changes have already been made to phonathon efforts.

The College of Staten Island has approximately 55,000 alumni – a vast number to reach in a phonathon effort. Under the direction of Dr. Boyden, the entire phonathon procedure and protocol were changed this spring, and nearly doubled in length to fourteen days; approved scripts and College updates were composed to assist student callers with their conversations with alumni and appeals for contributions to the College. Students are interviewed and trained more extensively than in the past to participate as phone representatives. The spring effort resulted in \$16,247 in gifts and pledges from 396 donors. It is anticipated that future years' efforts will be significantly expanded.

Informed by prior alumni data and the recent alumni survey, the College Advancement Office is increasingly attuned to affinity groups within the College and has held successful affinity group reunions for Nursing (5,046 alumni), Business (7,712 alumni), and Education (8,397 alumni). A new group, Early Years Graduates, which includes students from SICC and Richmond College, is now forming.

CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

A Diversity Climate Survey for full-time faculty has been implemented by the Office of Jennifer Rubain, Esq., University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity. Set to close on May 27, the comprehensive online instrument examines faculty recruitment and diversity issues, asking questions on topics such as the clarity of tenure and promotion policies, and instances during which one may have felt uncomfortable on campus due to demographic characteristics like age, marital status, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The study will be used to develop recommendations for improving representation, retention, and faculty satisfaction, especially for underrepresented groups.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

British ferry operators are being encouraged to "Seas the Opportunity" to promote their services between May 14 and May 28 this year, as the British Passenger Shipping Association celebrates its third annual Ferry **Fortnight**, designed to "heighten consumer and media awareness" of British ferry services.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **September 16, 2011**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué. Enjoy the summer!

