

CHBS Dean's Annual Report for 2014-2015

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1. Continue to work with CHBS Leadership Team to expand high-impact practices, including internships, faculty/student collaboration in research, service learning, client-based projects, and career exploration (e.g., CRJU Week in DC).

I am pleased to report that 100% of students majoring in one of the disciplines in CHBS experience at least one high-impact teaching practice before graduation. I continue to work with the Leadership Team to identify additional opportunities for students to participate in these experiences, including expansion of our internship programs, more career exploration experiences (POSC trip to NOVA and DC), and integration of Communication Across the Curriculum (CAC). I am also very excited to see the early successes by our new Model UN team, led by Dr. Paige Tan, Professor and Chair of Political Science.

2. Continue to work with the CHBS CAC Task Force to develop a proposal for a state-of-the-art *CHBS Communication Across the Curriculum* Initiative.

Dr. Chris Anson, our CAC consultant, returns to RU March 31st to April 1st to continue to work with Core 101, 102, 201 and 202 instructors, our English Department GTAs, GTFs and faculty mentors, and the CHBS Leadership Team to identify ways to help to motivate our students to invest time and energy developing their written and oral communication skills. He will also meet with the directors of high-impact practices to talk about how to integrate more written and oral communication in those activities (e.g., undergraduate research, international communication, Scholar-Citizen Initiative). The college is hosting a lunch for Dr. Anson and a group of University 100 instructors to address the same topic with them. I'm committed to continuing to work with Dr. Anson to improve our students' abilities to communicate effectively, given it's such a critical skill for their personal and professional success.

3. Continue to work with CHBS Leadership Team to identify opportunities to enhance our contributions to the teaching mission of the university, including but not limited to support of the CHBS Faculty Mentors group, increasing faculty participation in Quality Matters training, offering workshops to faculty in Communication Across the Curriculum, and providing support for the development of Experience Maymester and Experience Wintermester classes.

I have already addressed CAC in #2 above. I am pleased to note the CHBS Faculty Mentors group continues to provide guidance and support to our newer faculty, including the annual fall networking event and workshops designed specifically to assist our newer colleagues to adapt to our RU students. We continue to have faculty engaged in producing online courses consistent with Quality Matters principles. I'm happy to report that Dr. Paul Thomas's RELN 112 class recently

received Quality Matters national certification. Dr. Nicole Hendrix's (Associate Professor, CRJU) Experience NOVA/DC Maymester class was such a success last year that we are repeating it this summer. Planning is underway for a similar class for those interested in careers in Political Science.

4. Continue to work with CHBS Leadership Team to identify opportunities to enhance our contributions to the research mission of the university, including but not limited to providing additional support for research-related travel, investigating means to provide additional time reassigned to research, and investing in initiatives leading to external grant-funded research, scholarship and creative activity.

We were very fortunate to receive and distribute over \$120,000 in awards for research conducted by faculty members in CHBS this year. It was a bit of a moving target, given we weren't sure we were going to receive the funding at all and then there were questions about what assurances needed to be provided for us to be able to disburse the funding. Thankfully, we were able to identify a path forward, with the result that 18 CHBS faculty, or 15% of our colleagues in the college, received funding to support their professional contributions this year. I am also pleased to report that two of our faculty members, Dr. Tay Keong Tan (Political Science) and Dr. Jay Caughron (Psychology) received a SEED grant totaling nearly \$20,000 to conduct pilot research for a planned external grant submission. Dr. Isaac Van Patten (CRJU) received a grant to serve as an embedded criminologist with the Roanoke Police Department. In addition, faculty in our college (e.g., Tracy Cohn, Psychology; Jeanne Mekolichich, Sociology; Tay Keong Tan, Political Science) were the recipients of over \$125,000 in grants from foundations interested in supporting our work. Four of our colleagues (Tom Pierce, Psychology; Lynn Zoch, Communication; Sandy French, Communication; Nicole Hendrix, CRJU) have been approved for faculty professional development leaves. Two departments (CRJU, History) have now approved written policies providing for additional reassigned time for research and creative activity for their faculty and I am encouraging more departments and the School of Communication to do the same. Even in light of our stretched-too-thin instructional resources, we continue to find ways to support the research mission of RU.

5. Continue to work with CHBS Leadership Team, and interested faculty, students and alumni to enhance our prelaw advising efforts.

Thanks to Dr. Jack Call, Professor of Criminal Justice and RU's prelaw advisor, and the efforts of Margaret Hrezo, Adam DeVries and other members of the new Interdisciplinary Prewlaw Advisory Board, we sponsored another successful Mock Trial class this year. Dr. Call also planned and hosted prelaw events that featured presentations by RU alumni who are active participants in the legal community, including a visit from Curtis Martin, an RU alum and member of the CHBS Advisory Board. Mr. Martin was recently named one of the Top 100 Most Influential African-American Attorneys in the U.S. One recent prelaw event drew 35 students, nearly

one third of whom were students of color. I'm very thankful to Jack for his years of service leading our prelaw efforts.

6. Continue to work with the RU Office of Alumni Affairs to expand the CHBS Alumni Advisory Board.

We were able to expand the CHBS Alumni Advisory Board by another 10 members, bringing the total number of board members to 35. We now have representation from NOVA, Richmond, VA Beach, and the Roanoke/NRV region in the Commonwealth and from Atlanta, New York and Florida, as well. The board is working on developing a CHBS Alumni Award, details of which will be announced at the October CHBS Advisory Board meeting. Advisory Board members are also working on a development project to be announced at the dedication of the new CHBS building in the fall of 2016.

7. Work with Facilities to monitor construction of the new CHBS academic building.

This has been a very busy year collaborating with Facilities in planning our new home. The floor plans have been finalized and the various departments and the School of Communication are in the process of selecting individual faculty offices in the new building. The CHBS Building Planning Committee has been working closely with our interior design consultants, KSA, in determining appropriate furniture options for all of the teaching and research spaces in the new building, as well as individual faculty offices. The next step in the process is actually selecting furniture for individual offices. To that end, a mock office will soon be available for faculty to review in considering their furniture selections. All of our furniture orders must be submitted by the end of this fiscal year. We've set the end of May as our internal deadline to organize our furniture orders. That's a full year in advance, so we'll be in good shape, even given the large size of our order, for an early summer 2016 delivery. We have also been hard at work identifying the equipment and technology we will need for the teaching and research spaces and faculty offices in the new building. Our big "ask" for ETF funding will be this year for funding to be expended during the next fiscal year. Those requests will be submitted by the end of this spring semester. If all goes according to plan, we should be moving into the new building in about 15 months and we will begin teaching in the new building in August of 2016. That nearly miraculous timeline is testimony to our faculty's willingness to find a way to "make it work" to move the college forward in a positive way and I am deeply grateful to you all for that.

8. Work with Advancement to promote the CHBS strategic advancement plan, or "case for need" to assist us with our fund-raising efforts.

The arrival of a new Vice President for Advancement necessitated the development of a new "case for need" for the college. I'm hopeful that process will begin soon. In the meantime, I continue to work with Alumni Affairs and the Advancement Office to identify potential donors to support faculty and students in CHBS.

9. Continue to work to enhance communication between CHBS Dean's office and internal and external stakeholders.

I am very thankful to Jeanie Owens, the Assistant to the CHBS Dean, for the exemplary work she continues to do in keeping our stakeholders well informed about the successes of our CHBS faculty and students. She is particularly skilled in her use of social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and also LinkedIn. These channels of communication have become very popular with our students, their families and our alumni as a way of participating in the life of the college.

10. Engage in professionally related travel outside the contiguous 48 states.

Plans to travel to Ireland to build relationships with potential exchange partners there were derailed when the person leading the effort left the university. I am hopeful Dr. Paul Currant, our new International Education Center Director, will provide guidance and support in planning such a trip in the not-too-distant future.

A note about the RU Futures Group

At the time I submitted my goals to the Provost and to our college community, I did not know Dr. Minner would appoint me co-chair of the RU Futures Group. It's been my privilege to work alongside incredibly smart and deeply committed faculty, staff and administrators, all joined by one desire—to do what's truly best for the future of our university. It's been a significant challenge to fulfill our group charge in such a compressed time frame, but I'm confident the results of the group's work will be valuable to the university community moving forward. In addition, it's been very gratifying to see some of the communication processes we adopted for use in the Futures Group, including open websites for input from members of the university community, adopted for use with other campus processes, such as the RU Marketing and Branding Campaign and the RU Academic Program Review Committee. I am so proud of the members of the group for taking on the challenge of living the change we wanted to see in the system and it worked!