TRANSITIONING TO THE CLUSTERS

Over the next two years, PSU will transition from a traditional department/college administrative model to an academic discipline/cluster administrative model. As departments are phased out, responsibilities previously housed in departments (i.e. curriculum, recruitment, advising, scheduling, promotion/tenure, etc.) will be taken over by academic disciplines or clusters. At our last Justice & Security cluster meeting, your guides solicited feedback regarding what duties should be held at the discipline level and what duties to push up to the clusters. We received good feedback and will be bringing your concerns and ideas to the Academic Deans and Integrated Cluster Guides.

Campus Cluster Forums

The most recent campus cluster forum focused on organization and structure as we transition to a cluster-based model. Faculty and staff were asked, “What is keeping you up at night” with regard to this transition and were tasked with identifying how, organizationally, these concerns might be addressed.

To join the conversation, join us at future Campus Cluster Forums on April 18th from 2:00-3:30, April 28th from 9:30-11:00 and May 12th from 2:00-3:30 in Heritage Commons.

CLUSTER PROJECT UPDATE

Congratulations to those engaged in Spring cluster projects, including:

Christine Axen (HI) & Kate Elvey (CJ) on the successful launch of their co-taught History of Punishment class. Offered as an upper-level CJ/HI cross-listed special topics course, this course exposes students to the administration of punishment from an interdisciplinary perspective, and will include a prison visit for interested students.

Stephanie Halter (CJ) on her highly successful event: The Face of Human Trafficking – From Victim to Enforcement Training, co-sponsored by the Justice & Security Cluster, the NH Human Trafficking Collaborative, and the Grafton County Attorney’s Office. The event was attended by almost 100 people, including victim-witness advocates, law enforcement personnel, and human trafficking caseworkers from around the state, as well as PSU faculty and students. Dr. Halter will be continuing her work on Human Trafficking through a one-credit special topics course in the Fall 2017 semester. Contact Dr. Halter at sjhalter02@plymouth.edu to get involved.
“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail

WHAT’S NEW IN J&S?

CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENTS

First Year Seminar

As part of the integrated cluster initiative, First Year Seminar is transitioning to a challenge-based interdisciplinary approach to a “wicked problem.” To facilitate this transition, administrators solicited applications for a First Year Fellows program to develop this model and begin to teach First Year Seminar in Fall of 2017. This approach to seminar will introduce first-year students to a) tackling societal challenges (e.g. “wicked problems”) b) approaching these challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective, and c) project-based learning. Two faculty members from Justice & Security will be participating in the First Year Fellows program beginning this Spring: Kate Elvey (CJ) and Stephanie Halter (CJ).

Cluster Composition

To encourage the integration of writing within the disciplines, Elliott Gruner (EN) has launched “Cluster Composition,” a model in which first-year composition classes are focused on a disciplinary theme. As part of this model, Laura Dykstra (CJ) and Rebecca Grant (EN) have partnered together to link their CJ1010 and EN1200 classes in the Fall 2017 semester to better develop the writing skills of CJ1010 students, in relation to their academic discipline.

Interdisciplinary Minors and Certificates

A new interdisciplinary minor in Cybersecurity has been passed through Curriculum Committee. This interdisciplinary minor, co-chaired by Elman Bashar (CS) and Francis Williams (CJ), focuses on issues relating to cybersecurity and cybercrime, and approaches these topics from an interdisciplinary lens.

In addition, a new interdisciplinary certificate in Justice and Welfare for Children and Youth has also been created. This certificate, co-chaired by Stephanie Halter (CJ) and Kristina Lind (SW), draws from multiple disciplines, including Criminal Justice, Education, and Social Work, and aims to provide students with necessary skills for working with troubled children and youth.

MOVING FORWARD

The next deadline for Cluster Project Proposal Submission is Friday April 14th. Guides are now accepting proposals for funding for next academic year (i.e. after June 30th) as well. Contact your guides if you have questions!