Our Commitment to Student Success

Internships are critical
Pay attention to Student course evaluations
Small class sizes
Enrollment
Students are not aware of the resources we have that can help students succeed

Business Student
I was part of a Marketing Internship – the coordinator (Julie) is awesome. She coordinates events – amazing job. It was helpful to hear people discussing how they succeed in their careers.

We have trouble defining our path. Speakers, panelists, describing their careers – help us find that path AS ARTISTS. It is important to have these successful artists speak to students.

Stan Wearden
Dr. Kim is talking about value of learning business skills including the ability to market oneself. Sometimes students can find the requirements outside of their major burdensome. Are these business skills valuable?

Grad student
My previous UG institution (SCAD) required a course that was incredibly valuable – I probably wouldn’t have survived without it. We learned to make invoices, do bids – basic business guidelines. We learned how to make a resume, build a website, participate in mock interviews.
I’ve seen the difference between friends who graduated from CCC and SCAD – it is an incredible difference in how SCAD students present themselves more effectively in the world.

Interactive Arts and Media student
Many students have a rose-colored glasses perception of being hired immediately. It would be more realistic if they learn how to promote themselves as independent artists. That way, they’ll know what to do if they are not hired. It is a more realistic approach.

There should be a requirement within your major for internships. Each student should have a selected time for an internship. Sometimes internships take away from school and I can’t find the time. But I want to take an internship worth 3 credits that fits in – so it isn’t taking time away from other courses I need to take for my degree.

Unanimous – all the students agreed that internships should be required.

Specific fields needs classes like entertainment law, intellectual property. It is so important. I transferred from U Miami. They founded co-ops. One semester of building resumes, portfolios. Really helped teach us about how to come up as a professional. I am also an Interactive Arts and Media major. A lot in industry don’t feel professionalism isn’t critical but I think it gives an edge.
Some classes are overcrowded. It is harder to receive the one-on-one attention. Limit the number of students in sections. There is overcrowded for programming courses where 1-on-1 is needed. Professors not meeting expectations for the class that they are supposed to meet.

But some schools have 150 in classes. Faculty have office hours. That is the time for you to talk with your professor.

If we can’t shrink course size, maybe have more student workers or assistants in classroom that can help with programming. That could be another resource for students.

21st Century Curriculum

We need to be more honest with the curriculum. College = courses, graduation, getting a job, and eventually buying a house. No longer the truth. We need to learn to be competitive, professional. If you don’t know it, you’re not hired, that’s it. Curriculum must be molded around that reality.

Our core competencies should be tech based and business based. That is where we need to point resources. CCC should have an incubator that gives students resources to develop ideas for companies.

We need more cross-departmental integration. Fashion and Cinema or Cinema and Theatre, or graphic design and science… most industries are going that way and it is too hard to do with our current credit structure.

Stan Wearden
What about minors? (Many hands raised)

Advertising Art Direction, Minor in Web Development.
I am taking classes in both departments, and some are kind of the same. How can we change or update the curriculum to avoid the overlap?

I would love to minor but looking at the advising guide and credits, it is very hard to manage two different things at once when my own major is already demanding.

I would very much like to minor in my own field, Interactive Arts and Media. I am minoring in Business. I wanted to minor in programming. But it is not directed towards my major so it wouldn’t help me. Tech Art, a form of programming, would help game majors – but we don’t have it. More specific minor classes are needed.

The way the classes, majors, minors are structured is limiting. It would be helpful if more classes could substitute for major courses or core courses.

One of the problems is that students aren’t aware of what can & can’t do. I created my own minor. We need to inform students that they can form their own or create their own degree by talking to their department. I am an HHSS student.

Make sure we have available advisors – and not a different advisor every time. I have one advisor that knows me and helps me every time – he is very helpful.
I am a transfer student. I have too many credits. I could go part-time next semester. I am doing a minor in biology, but I wish I could have a more specific minor. I am looking for the medical side of it.

It is easy to add in my department, Cinema. I added Fashion Business in my junior year. But there are not a lot of options for non-majors.

I am a game art major. I wanted to minor in concentration under same major but I couldn’t. I ended up in animation. On the Advising guide – if the College could have a way to say – if you want this? Here are 3 classes. I’m not sure if I am taking classes in order.

I am in Biology. But I am getting a minor without the credit for it.

Students with minors have three diff ways to navigate the industry. Students with minors are stacking their talents.

Collaborations are valuable. What if I was required to collaborate with every major and graduate with that experience?

**Diversity and Inclusion**

We should create partnerships with other universities around the world. If we had students here from Africa -- exchange programs – would bring much more diversity.

I am an international student. Scholarships are needed for international students. There is only one scholarship for international students.

We need more diversity within faculty and the curriculum. I work with the Black student union. We’re not seeing people like ourselves out there. It is not motivating at all.

We need international students and exchanges. I don’t feel like there is a lot of emphasis on us participating in such exchanges. More of a focus on this is important for us as students here. International experience can contribute greatly to education. We had four German students in one class in my previous institution. They had different design styles, and different ways of learning – we learned through them.

We should have more social events -- more festivals celebrating other cultures. More international celebrations that welcome other cultures and lifestyles.

One thing I hear is that some students don’t feel like they are being cared for as much as others in class. We need diversity training for faculty and students.

I’m a graduate student. I've been out in the world. You’ll come across all cultures. If you have that training now, it will be a great asset for the future.

International programs. I have visited different countries. I want to study abroad, but it is difficult to have the credits transfer back here. It is a big concern.

Stan Wearden
We need to give everyone a legitimate voice. Need to experience people different than us. Where are we with this? What can we do to get better?

We have it in our student groups. We have an end of the semester dinner where everyone comes together. But CCC needs to get away from its commuter school mentality. We need to find better ways to communicate and build community on campus.

There is a poverty issue. There are students who can’t afford to come here or continue here and CCC cuts them off. The college is just after their money. The college doesn’t give them more help to get them back to be apart of CCC. They are neglected and unsupported.

NCA and Columbia cares are not highlighted enough. It is a hub of diversity. Places like The Loft need to be highlighted more on campus.

Community Engagement

Luther
CCC paints this image that Chicago is dangerous but there are many great places to be involved and go. We’re condensed in the loop. We need to go out.

In Detroit, there is a particularly bad area. Artists from local colleges got together and did huge two block long art piece in that area. It helped to make the community safe. CCC can go to areas and make art. It can bring us together with the community.

High school students may be intimidated to get into the arts because their parents want them to be doctors. We have a lot of high school art students that are talented and passionate. It might be good for us to have a mentorship program.

In my Masters in Visual Art program, this is one of the things we do. We work with community arts centers. 10 people in my cohort, 7 in the other. It is happening, but on a small scale.

Jim Rohn in animation is closely involved in Spark, a mentorship program. He wants to get the whole college involved.

There are programs in CCAP that are not highlighted. We need to highlight these things so students know that we have a lot of things going on we don’t know about.

Sophisticated community engaged work. DePaul has a sociology class that has to work with an organization dedicated to injustice. I don’t think there are any classes at Columbia that has those kind of partnerships. Not partnerships with institutions and businesses but with organizations and cultural centers. We can send our students there via the classroom then we’ll be putting up art in those neighborhoods.

We need mentorships. Major specific mentorships. Student advocates. Game design very popular but either think not stable industry or not schooling for it. We should be educating the community by participating in outreach.
High schools. Both teens and parents need to be better educated. When I told my dad I was going to study gaming he pictured me living in his basement. But we need to show parents the business side to art.

**Optimizing Enrollment**

Camilla, International Student
I was between SCAD and CCC. Many girls from my school who go to SCAD are on scholarships. SCAD came to my school and offered them scholarships. CCC should be reaching out (down in South America where arts are not well developed), visiting schools. When students feel that a University wants you, it is a good thing.

Garrett.
I live in Ohio. Full Sail had a rep come from Florida to my Ohio high school to talk about their programs. Good idea to get reps going to high schools.

Goly.
We should offer non-accredited workshops or classes. People in other disciplines. Potentially garner new students too.

Tiffany.
I am from small town, Marian, Ohio. Many people from my town have to travel far (Cleveland) to go to a Columbia event. When I was deciding to come here, no one knew about Columbia. It was a bit awkward. CCC needs to spread the word.

We should have student advocates. A few from each major. It would be nice to talk to students from the major you’re interested in before coming here. It would be so helpful. Maybe CCC could have live video feeds from campus, walking around. Or a feed and being able to ask questions live during those events in Cleveland, hours away. Getting a taste of CCC without the travel.

I know you visit schools but look at the students that are already here and visit their high schools. Use them as ambassadors. I went back to talk to friends about this school. They didn’t know. I feel like I could go back to my high school and get a handful of students to come.

Within the Education department, there have been many discussions about how to get more grad students into the program. What if a department head was split into two – a director for graduate education and director for undergraduate education. There have been many questions about how our department has been run, both successfully and not successfully.

Grad students have cohorts, smaller groups of students and a lot of collaboration. In our department we’ve had a big push – how can we grow this population? It shouldn’t grow. It is better to have a smaller committed group. Graduate students are very different than undergraduate. Many are career changers.

CCC should be reaching out to rural areas. Reach out to Hawaii. When you hear about opportunities to leave the island, you jump at it. HI, Alaska. I also lived in Japan on a military base. Japan is big on international education. Reach out to American military bases outside of America.
Aligning Resources with Goals

CCC should go to companies and reach out to them for funding or support. Ask what type of employees they need to hire and show them how we can help our students meet those demands. To do so, we need funding. Like gaming companies – a growing field – they wanted trained professionals. How can CCC and businesses help each other out?

If the goal is increasing enrollment, one of the resources we need is more scholarship funding. CCC has amazing film program but I have a friend who is at DePaul for film because of a scholarship. Not everyone can meet the 3.0 at all times. We should offer strictly financial based scholarships so that everybody can learn. Maybe modify scholarship requirements so that we have.

Once we find what the typical successful CCC looks like. How many students have been successful?
1- we need a stronger communication system. 2- we need diversity training for teachers. 3- cross-department collaborations, minor integration.

Support for an innovation lab would foster community as well. Students can create great ideas for CCC or the industry.

Related to 21st Century Curriculum. Many departments are behind in technology. We need to learn how to adapt to quick software changes.

How to nurture. Maybe the chair and dean can have a forum with students about change to hear what goals the students expect from Columbia that they aren’t seeing. Forum with just that department – talk to the students – it will increase our knowledge of CCC goals and the chair and dean will also have clearer idea of the demands of students.

Technology recycled. Students don’t realize that the money we have to put into updating technology is limited. Maybe make a recommendation to chairs and deans to work with SGA in forums. Then the chair and dean can give the students the direct answer. They can explain the reason why we can’t do this… or … we’re working on that. It is important for students to learn that the money they are spending is going to support their education.

CCC should have relationships with 1871or something like this. We need an internship coordinator connecting us – building relationships that can help us with resources. 1871 is a start-up incubator in merchandise mart.