Student Organizations Council, December 3, 2014, 6-7pm
Moderators: Sara Kalinoski, Michelle Gates

Student Success

Bianca Betancourt, SOC chairwoman
What I’ve noticed in my years here, in all majors, there are some teachers here that really go the extra mile to prepare students. Then there are others that don’t have that same passion. That can disconnect the student. Difference between those that really care and those going through the motions.

Scott Wilson, VP Renegades
Teachers need to present all different options within a major. I am in Animation. I feel like for everyone – Disney is the goal. But if you don’t get a job at Disney, where are you going next? There are so many fields with visual effects that students don’t know about. I had an internship in motion graphics – kudos to CCC for that. But it opened my eyes. Students don’t know. Maybe if they take a day to talk about options outside of the standard career paths, it would be really helpful.

Ryan Miller, Student Athletics
I am in Marketing Communication, and I want to give some credit to faculty. I know there is a lot of negativity that goes around – faculty don’t give enough information. But a more targeted study would help. Personally, every faculty member I have had has given me tons of information, offered internships, helped me to branch out. However, I know other students have said they haven’t had that experience. But I want to give some faculty a lot of credit. I’ve been two years and every professor has been that way – not one that has been absent-minded. Maybe there should be a more targeted focus on problem departments.

Taylor Price, ASO
Keeping it updated to be successful. How do we improve so that we are personally connected. Being aware of who the students are and how they can connect. There are playwrights that I know exist that I am not being exposed to. I’d like to see more options in the classroom for me and my classmates.

Brooke Thomas, Finance of SOC and VP of BSU
Reaching out to students personally and professionally. I went into Journalism and realized that that wasn’t what I wanted to do. Maybe if there is some sort of a test so we can tell better what way we want to go.
Marketing merging with Business which is great for me. But there are some things that I have to take that I don’t feel I need to take for my career -- but I have to.

Ava Ginsburg, President for Students for Justice in Palestine/Jewish Voice for Peace
I am a Cinema senior. Students need to be prepared for being out in the world and knowing how to communicate. We get really good technical skills in Film but not necessarily people
skills. We are directed towards, Hollywood, LA, Disney and how much money you’re going to make. Many grads have gone to LA, but I want to produce meaningful films.

Taylor Price
Would it be possible if the student did something outside of class that could be graded for class? Create something outside of class to substitute for that grade. You define your success.

Donavan Frierson. SOC Representative for the BSU
I am a graphic design major. I think in terms of defining a measure of student success. I worked on branding and a logo and I brought my own ideas. To encourage or make it more apparent to students the importance of self-application that can be brought to your work.

**21st Century Curriculum**

Taylor Price
How to better it- keep up with the 21st century. There are certain classes and minors – African American studies etc – but we need more studies or classes like Asian American – more options. Be more current.

Brooke Thomas
Marketing yourself is an amazing class for a student in general. You learn how to write a resume and cover letter – every student needs this. You need to know more about you and how to market yourself. Also, with lifelong learning and businesses today you need to learn to work with other people. I think a lot of collaborations with classes are great. I love when CCC does this. Some people get the chance but it should be more collaborative across all majors and not just certain classes.

Bianca Betancourt
Many students are former CCC teachers. I shouldn’t have a teacher telling me that they took a class here with another CCC teacher that is teaching the same thing that he/she taught twenty years ago. I shouldn’t know more than some of my teachers about come current information.

Brooke Thomas
I had a teacher last year that didn’t use a board or a PPT, just lectured. If you’re just talking to me, it’s not going to work. If I don’t see anything – the teacher is not keeping up with us. Technology is everything. We know how to operate equipment in the classroom that teachers don’t.

Taylor Price
I have a great marketing teacher– most of the time he doesn’t use the board. But he has us bring in articles that he relates to the course. He is identifying what is happening now and connecting it to what we are learning.
Ryan Miller
Kind of a general comment: the catalog itself (and I’m sure for each field is different) can be expanded to 21st century stuff. Some courses haven’t been updated in 20 years. I had to buy a book last year from 1987 that didn’t have any references to the Internet in it. But more in the core classes – maybe a full-blown course that deals with social media or broader courses in the catalog. Even some community colleges have niche classes but it’s just the options. At CCC if you’re not taking what you need to take there are not a lot of other options outside of those courses. There is nothing outside that can count towards it. Elective courses could do a better job. More mix & match instead of the cut & dry 1 of these 3, 2 of these 4. There are a few electives I want to take but they don’t fit.

Right now with the big marketing and business move, I am taking Business Media and Marketing and it won’t count. It’s on the old plan with PR and Marketing but apparently it won’t count on the new plan. Stuff like that makes me ask why. Things like this should be able to count when an elective is doing what you need it to do.

Diversity and Inclusion

Bianca Betancourt
By not cutting those courses. We need those. The LBGT, gender studies, African American courses. These are the courses that people are passionate about and want to take. I don’t understand why they are cutting them.

Brooke Thomas
It is more of a community in those classes. The greatest teacher I’ve had was in HHSS. If you care about it, you’re going to learn it. They have to stay. Those courses need to be enhanced.

Rima, The Loft
I agree. I took Women and US Society. I’ve been here for four years. Cutting those off is cutting off a huge networking opportunity. I see these people on the street, in the Loft – I know then personally. We can’t just network within the department – we need a bigger network. That cuts it off. When you are at that age, you need figure out who you are. This helps you think. I was such a narrow-minded person – it opened my mind to a whole different world. Now I have a different perspective – classmate sitting next to you changes your world.

Ava, The Loft
I can only speak to the film department. We need to incorporate those who have been marginalized. I think the core of film is European, white male centric. I am taking a course this semester seeing African films, Asian films, etc., and I am shocked that I didn’t learn this sooner. Diversifying curriculum seems like a huge thing to tackle but I know there are things that students have been inspired by that are not in the core classes. Getting that perspective that’s not American, male and white is important.
Taylor Price
Having diversity classes or training for teachers as well. I am a transfer student so I hear about FYS but I don’t know what it taught there. Maybe this could go into FYS. I see the Black Film Society screened the Black Sheep and having the opportunities to learn about other cultures. They are on their path, you are on yours, but working together.

Ryan Miller
I want to combine some of the previous comments. Not getting rid of these courses but diversifying them. There are no Asian studies courses. I took a lot of classes like that in high school but there are not any available here. The only one thing, Japanese I, which is part language with some culture which is great, but why is that the only thing? There are a lot of other groups that aren’t represented as well but Asia is a big thing because there are a lot of them. Asian culture is huge. Not even a fraction of one course is going to touch on them. We need a generic Asian Studies and a ton of people would be interested in it.

Rima
I am taking a western humanities course and our teacher said at the start – what do you expect to learn? The only thing we covered is the same old white European history. I know it from high school and I’m sick of it. When you come into the same class and there is nothing western about it, it is disappointing. It was still a good class but you need to be exposed to different cultures.

Community Engagement

Brooke Thomas
First-Year Seminar (FYS) is a great class but it gets a little boring. Field trips are great. Keeping people together with the community, volunteering, going to a museum -- there is something about “us” and being together. FYS has a lot of potential but its not what it could be. There are so many options for community engagement. Freshmen are like little babies. Transfers too, trying to figure things out. You have to think of your career, etc. For me it’s not about what you make but what you give back. If we put that out there, it will be beneficial.

Ryan Miller
As a transfer student, I haven’t had a bonding experience in classes. I’ve only experienced this through student organizations. I feel like this is kind of the school’s fault and kind of not. I didn’t have the FYS experience. Transfers come in older than the others. You are kind of lost because you don’t have a class where everyone is in the same situation with you. You miss the community building, friend building experience. If Tim Gorky had not approached me about playing sports, I probably would be alone in my dorm room. At this point, others are goal-oriented and career-oriented and aren’t looking to build the bonds that freshman do. If there was a FYS course for transfers, you could pull some people into the college and get them to stay. I have friends who have transferred in, they meet no one and make not friends – they immediately leave because they don’t feel connected. Transfer seminar? Something like that would help a lot of kids.
Leah Miller, Loft Assistant
I agree. CCC should create some sort of sister/brother program for transfer students. They need someone willing to create a bond with them, asking about their art, their program. I was lost as a freshman. My job at the Loft – learning from students who are older -- really helped. Building friendships with faculty also really helped. It is a good way to get people involved and make it a more community-based college.

Donavan Frierson
I am part of the CCAP organization. They do a lot of getting students outside the loop, getting students to apply their art in the community. As far as I know, they only have one class in J-Term called Big Art. Having more interactive programs like that would be really beneficial. That is how I got more involved in the community and met students in other majors. We should emphasize more things like this.

Brooke Thomas
We need a peer support program. I did have a mentor as a freshman but I didn’t like it. But as things have gone on, things have changed. I also work at the Learning Studio. Instead of just with Multicultural Affairs (MCA) it should be Columbia-wide. Like your RAs. Junior to Freshmen support and Sophomore to Senior – it would be helpful.

Optimizing Enrollment

Bianca Betancourt
We students need to take ourselves more seriously. We laugh at ourselves. We’re not a perfect institution but there are a lot of good things going on and we are pioneering in the arts and media. I’ve had two internships, been published in HuffPo and Washington Post and this is all because of my opportunities through Columbia.

Brooke Thomas
There is a cloud over us that we are an art school. But I am a creative. Some of my friends look at CCC as and art school and we’re not – we have a business mind. If you are a photographer you should need business classes, too. I am from New Orleans and no one knows about CCC. That is the students’ faulty too. We (students) should be more proud of Columbia.

Rima
We do have some very, very intelligent students. We need to have more pride. It’s not just your skills level but how you’re going to be able to sell yourself. Marketing is a huge thing and we need to spin it on that. It is not just paintings and pretty pictures it is a lot of work and hard work. Business needs to be a highlight of CCC.

Donavan Frierson
I am a big person on the self. It is all through self-application. It should be students taking initiative and using the resources that CCC provides. This is knowing our self-value, knowing what we are doing and as we grow, knowing how to apply that.

Raj, BSU and SOC rep
CCC needs to integrate a program that supports young adults who are parents. If CCC had a program where the student could still attend school and offer some care that could watch the child while the parent is in class. Perhaps even courses that could teach students to be good parents. I know students who have left because they couldn’t manage being a parent.

Brooke Thomas
Early Childhood education could work with childcare.

Resources

Brooke Thomas
Okay – money, space, people and time. When you’re thinking about this coming together – we have no community center. We have the Loft and the MCA but no place where we can come together as one. We can’t stretch the budget but we should stretch the budget. We have people that can do the things that we’re paying for. At the same time, we have money allotted for things that people have the skills to do themselves (graphic design, etc.). The CBMR – people don’t know that is there at all! Or CCAP. Those places need to be highlighted. We could be learning from that but we don’t know it is there.

Bianca Betancourt
Using our student body. We have beautiful murals that we got over the summer – why don’t we have students and faculty doing this??

Rima
I agree – the murals, the typography. The moose was a student but the mural was not. The mural is beautiful but show people who want to come to CCC what we can do. We have such a great talent here. Like the Manifest contest. Create an awareness of CCC’s work. I know for Manifest the graphic design was sad – we ran out of time – we have great equipment and not many students get to access it. Students feel distant. We don’t’ feel connected to CCC. Before the new website we had the same photo up there for years. The world is evolving. Let’s show people what we can do. We have fancy equipment that only a few faculty members know how to use – we need to use it and showcase it.
Raj
Shop Columbia needs to me more exploded. It could be very successful. A lot of students don't know what it is. It’s not hiding but it’s not that noticeable. Maybe like the bookstore, it could have a door on the main street. Maybe like the popup shop on the corner, it could door on the street instead of having to go in and through the building. There is not a lot of traffic flow going in and out. Maybe moved or promoted better it would be more successful.

Donavan Frierson
Can we get some more free printing? At least for B&W? At least a free print day. Even around finals have a free print day or during the last few weeks of the semester.

Leah
They want us to hand in all these papers and I can't afford printing all of them. We have to print handouts that we use for one day. It's a waste.

Rima
I have a faculty member that I spent 3-400 just on printing. I understand, I am in graphic design – but it is expensive and adds up. Can we make the professors aware how much what they ask will cost. It is nice when they give us a heads up on what it will cost. And then the faculty members sometimes don’t even look at our work.

Donavan Frierson
Cheaper books!

Brooke Thomas
I don't even go to the bookstore.

Leah
On every floor there should be a directory in the lobby for student resources in that building – where to print, where to find a computer lab – each lobby should have such a directory. Resources shouldn’t be hidden so we can utilize what we're paying for.

Brooke Thomas
I have a comment. Accounting and finance. I had a new person that was horrid but he got better – wonderful guy. But with new teachers they should go through training or a semester or something before they teach the first time.

Raj
Instructors should know more about CCC than they do. The teacher doesn't know much about the college. Do you artists know how to write papers? We're juniors and have been writing for years and she didn’t know.

Brooke Thomas
The math courses. This class is from 330-620. We learned about angles, like I was in 3rd grade again. You drop one of your lowest quiz grades so if you miss one quiz it's fine.
Challenge me please!! Some of these core classes! Bio I loved. But some of the math needs to be more challenging.

Rima
Yes! Challenge me. The more you challenge me, the more likely it is that I will show up.