



Talking Teaching

Fall 2015

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS . . .

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—suggested by faculty members—over food. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community and to pause & reflect on our teaching and on our students' learning experiences.

Topics are listed below, with times and preliminary descriptions. *We are looking for discussants for this semester.* For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring a question or an idea to spark the collective exchange of ideas. Imagination, not extended preparation, is the only requirement.

This semester's Talking Teaching series focuses on "Making Connections"—creating & refining courses for our new "Connections" Curriculum, as well as implementing & integrating its various components. All events are co-sponsored by the Connections Steering Committee, as well as the Office of the Dean of the College.

Please contact Ruth Grahn (regra@conncoll.edu) if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant. We hope to see you at these events!

Creating ConnCourses

WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM ERNST in BLAUSTEIN

ConnCourses are in their pilot phase, with the first group being taught this semester and others already on our Spring schedule. This session will focus on developing new ConnCourses: How might a course that you are teaching currently be converted into a ConnCourse? Is there a new course that you'd like to develop? Join your colleagues who have been involved in teaching & creating ConnCourses to learn from their experience and discover how you can get involved.

Discussants include members of the ConnCourse Working & Pilot groups, including Anne Bernhard, Darryl Phillips, Ginny Anderson, Phil Barnes, Kathy McKeon, & Michelle Neely.

Piloting the Integrative Pathways

THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

Once we fully implement the Connections Program, each student will choose an Integrative Pathway that will include 4 courses that span at least 3 modes of inquiry, a form of global/local engagement, and a senior-year reflection. This year there will be at least one optional Pathway introduced as a pilot program, followed by several others the following year, and a full set of Pathways ready for Fall of 2018. Join your Pathway-forging colleagues to learn more about this component of Connections and brainstorm ideas for potential Pathways.

Teaching Our New FYs: Updates & Current Experiences

OFFERED TWO DIFFERENT TIMES:

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM in ERNST

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM in HOOD

This fall we have begun to implement the Connections Program with team advising and changes to the first year seminars (FYs). How are these working and what are the successes and challenges? How can we use these changes to improve teaching and learning? These two sessions will be a chance for those teaching the FYs to share their experiences with each other and other interested faculty members.

Capstones I: Department & Center Exemplars

PART OF THE “TALKING TEACHING TOO” SERIES

THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM

ERNST in BLAUSTEIN

One of the most impactful elements of an integrated curriculum is the opportunity for a student to engage in a culminating project, one that draws on their experiences from a wide range of courses and co-curricular activities. Many departments and all of the Centers require a capstone. What are some examples of capstones that departments and centers believe are most effective? Who are the students engaged in these and how many students participate? What are the challenges departments and Centers anticipate as we encourage students to emphasize this component of their education?

As part of a new CTL series called “Talking Teaching Too,” this event will include student participants, and will emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.

Integrating Co-Curriculars into Connections

PART OF THE “TALKING TEACHING TOO” SERIES

FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

In addition to their major and their integrative pathways, each of our students are deeply involved in a range of co-curricular activities that may interact in myriad ways with their academic endeavors. A student’s involvement in volunteering, athletics, student leadership, student life, peer advising/tutoring, study away, work-study, etc., is often viewed as ancillary and separate from—and sometimes in conflict with—academics. How might we harness the impact of these activities to promote integration in a student’s college experience?

As part of a new CTL series called “Talking Teaching Too,” this event will include student participants, and will emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.

Full Participation in Our Courses: The Pilot & Beyond

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

One important step in the process of achieving full participation is to create more inclusive classrooms and courses that engage a diverse range of students. Four departments are currently piloting the use of a tool developed by the Summer Working Group on Full Participation. This tool will help individuals and departments assess whether, and to what extent, they are already using methods to achieve full participation and where and how they might improve. Come hear members of the working group and the pilot departments talk about how the process is going and share your ideas about how we can move forward across the curriculum.