What is Fortnight?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning “fourteen nights.” Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

**COACHE Survey Focused on Faculty Careers, Experience, and Satisfaction**

The Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=coache, known as COACHE), situated at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, has as its mission to improve faculty recruitment, retention, and work/life quality. Earlier this year, eleven CUNY campuses joined more than 140 other institutions across the country in contributing to the COACHE survey of pre-tenure faculty.

The survey focuses on several main themes: Tenure; Nature of the Work; Work and Home; Climate, Culture and Collegiality; Compensation and Benefits; and Global Satisfaction. Each theme is subdivided into several aspects that contribute to an understanding of how tenure-track faculty experience their institution. The Tenure theme rates process, criteria, standards, and evidence according to their level of clarity; Nature of the Work is evaluated according to level of satisfaction with a number of aspects of teaching work, non-teaching duties, and research support. Work and Home rates the importance of professional/personal interaction policies and practices to faculty members’ success, while Culture and Collegiality, Climate, and Compensation and Benefits ask faculty to rate their satisfaction with several dimensions relating to these aspects of their workplace. Finally, Global Satisfaction asks summary satisfaction questions on an “all things considered” basis.

COACHE has published research that provides comparisons between male and female experiences, and between Caucasian and non-white faculty respondents at a national level. Analysis of the CSI data is ongoing in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

**The Middle States Self-Study Process: Working Group 4**

Co-Chairs: Dr. Catherine Lavender, Associate Professor of History and Director of American Studies
Dr. Eun "E.K." Park, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

Working Report Title: Supporting, Developing, and Investing in a Quality Faculty

Working Group 4 is focusing on elements from Middle States Standards 10 and 6. The group’s charge reads as follows:

> **Working Group 4 will investigate the College of Staten Island’s efforts to attract, recruit, develop, and retain a quality faculty. The Working Group will evaluate how faculty recruitment and development practices further the College’s mission. In addition, the Working Group will examine the ethical standards utilized in the hiring, evaluating, and development of faculty throughout their careers. Special attention will be given to the integrity of the aforementioned procedures.**

The membership of Working Group 4 includes faculty voices at different levels of seniority, individuals with recruiting experience, staff who support faculty in opportunities (e.g., grants and international experiences), and individuals sensitive to faculty retention and development.
CLOSING THE LOOP: CHANGES IN EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO EVALUATE STUDENT PROGRESS

Previously, New York State Teacher Certification Exam (TCE) scores were neither universally available for all CSI Education students, nor were the exams taken at consistent points in students’ academic careers. This prevented the department from using these exams to monitor students’ progress through the CSI education curricula. Beginning in the next academic year, the department will require students in all undergraduate and some graduate education programs to take — but not be required to pass — the three teacher certification exams, and make their test scores available to the department. This change will allow better tracking of student performance as each exam is taken, which will in turn allow the department to evaluate the need for curricular revisions.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Committees - The College Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee voted at its most recent meeting on October 27, to have Dr. El Samuels from the Education Department serve as chair of the committee for 2010-2011. Associate Provost Susan Holak, Warrick Bell, and Barbara Cohen will continue to support the committee’s endeavors. Dr. Samuels, a psychometrician, has been instrumental in the Education Department’s successful NCATE accreditations. As the committee continues to evolve in its role and responsibilities, leadership from the academic departments is increasingly important. We wish Dr. Samuels much success in this new leadership role.

Academic Departments - The Mathematics Department reports that it has developed program goals along with objectives for all its courses, and has assessment activities ongoing in key courses including MTH 030, 102, 121, 123, and 334. Membership of its departmental Assessment Committee includes Professors Carlo Lancellotti, Joe Newmark, Kevin O’Bryant, Allen Tesdall, and John Verzani.

CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

As noted in the last issue of FORTNIGHTLY, the CUNY Assessment Council organized and sponsored an event on Assessment in the Humanities, held at the Graduate Center on Friday, October 29. Seven faculty members from three different CUNY schools spoke about their experiences assessing Philosophy, Modern Languages, and English. CSI was represented by Warrick Bell (OIRA); Dr. Soon Chun (Business), Dr. Catherine Lavender (History), and Ms. Louise Levine (English). We appreciate their willingness to represent our campus.

Several presenters noted that even though their department’s assessment activities may have initially been prompted in part by Middle States reviews, the faculty came to realize that systematic evaluation of students’ performance related to the goals of their programs was something that yielded benefits beyond the self-study process. The Chair of Philosophy from Brooklyn College stated that having an assessment plan in place is not the end of the process, and that initial changes may happen in the assessment strategies rather than in the curriculum. However, reaching that point nonetheless stimulates valuable pedagogical discussion between colleagues.

Also on October 29, Middle States Co-Chairs, Associate Provost Susan Holak and Professor Richard Powers, along with Louise Levine, who is working on the Middle States self-study, attended a special meeting at the CUNY central office for campuses that are in the Middle States process. Faculty and administration representatives from Hostos, LaGuardia, and John Jay were in attendance also. The group heard from Provost James McCarthy of Baruch College, who discussed Baruch’s recent experience with Middle States and shared advice with the campuses scheduled in the next cohort. This effort, organized by Dr. Sherri Ondrus, PMP Coordinator at the Central Office, was designed to provide an opportunity for campuses to share and learn from one another as CUNY units enter their decennial self-study phases.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Unusually popular considering its learned tone, Animal, Vegetable, Mineral? was one of the BBC’s first major panel games, commencing its broadcast run on October 23, 1952. Once a fortnight, a team of three panelists including archaeologists, art historians, and natural history experts, attempted to identify objects taken from Britain’s museums.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by November 12, 2010, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.