SFRVICE

Nature and Significance of College Service

Since my last promotion my college service has included departmental leadership/service, college and program committee service, hiring, elected faculty leadership, college relations, admissions, and the application of professional skills on behalf of the college.

Committee Service

I served several years on the Faculty Executive Committee including two and a half as its chair. I have also served on the Retention Task Force (co-chair undergraduate subcommittee), Assessment Committee, Ad Hoc Course Evaluation Committee. I chaired the undergraduate education working group of during the 2013 Strategic Planning Process and created a "Request For Comments" blog on proposals related to undergraduate programs.. I am an ongoing member of the Interdisciplinary Computer Science and Public Policy program committees. I served on search committees for Director of Spiritual Life and President.

Recent College Work

In spring 2015 I helped the president plan the Institute for the Future workshop and am on the follow up Infrastructure committee, and produced videos to explain project ideas that emerged from the workshop. During summer 2015 worked with campus architect on design of Innovation Lab and during fall 2015 lead the development of programming for the space. In 2014 I consulted with the branding consultant on survey design and in 2013 assisted in the editing of the college's strategic planning document.

Departmental Work

At the time of my last promotion I was completing a term as head of the Anthropology and Sociology department. Since that time I have participated in or organized our annual career and graduate school nights and various social gatherings for majors, done summer and winter transfer advising sessions, recruited, interviewed, and mentored adjunct instructors. I administer an active Facebook group for soc/anth alums with 100 members and a departmental blog with almost 13,000 page views.

This year I am working with my colleague Professor Hunter to re-imagine the sociology major and with Professors Hunter, Henderson, and Sheldon to design a combined research methods course that will be more intellectually exciting and more pedagogically efficient than our current offerings.

Admissions

I have given a keynote address and several mock lectures at Mills admissions visit days, have given talks at events for admitted students in southern California, interviewed students while traveling, consulted with admissions office staff on data analysis and the design of experiments, and participated in calling/emailing admitted students.

College Relations

In 2011 I organized faculty participation in alumnae phonathon. I have given prepared lectures to the Susan and Cyrus Mills Society, and Mills Clubs in Palo Alto, San Diego, and Washington DC. I will represent Mills at the "College for a Day" event in Colorado in January 2016.

College Visibility and Brand

I contribute regularly to college name recognition through social media including Twitter, Facebook (here and here), Wikipedia, and numerous blogs. I have "carried the flag" for Mills at the American Sociological Association, as a visiting scholar at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford and the Gould School of Law at USC, and as an observer at the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Meetings in Dubai (2014).

Enhancing Institutional Information Ecology

Over the last ten years I have failed spectacularly in most of my efforts to bring to the running of the college tools of the 21st century information society. At the Divisional and Departmental level I have maintained blogs for the purpose of shifting information posting and collegial conversation away from toxic email cascades to little effect. At the Institutional level I set up Excel!Mills as a community suggestion box around retention, and RFC Mills as an experimental in gathering feedback asynchronously on academic and other proposals; I failed to get traction on both. While on the Faculty Executive committee I created a wiki version of the faculty handbook and a platform called "Scrolls and Windows" that made all agendas, minutes, reports, and data accessible in one place. A data-base of ideas generated by faculty members on how to enhance the undergraduate academic program sits on the digital shelf even as we grab onto ideas thrown out in a speech by a visiting speaker this fall. In 2011 I set up a dynamic model of the curriculum under credit hour conversion that demonstrated many of challenges that have arisen since and a few we have not grappled with yet (e.g. lost student earnings), but we continue to muddle through. In 2014 I analyzed five years of individual enrollment data to build a detailed model of our cost of instruction. It showed, among other things, that enrollment loads are more important than course loads and that disparities in work load would doom any efforts at reform. I have learned more about innovation than the college has gained from these adventures, but they were tokens service none the less.