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From: faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>

Sent: Monday, February 18, 2019 1:35 PM

To: faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>

Subject: [faculty-l] Regent Civics resolutions

Message from: Tom Christensen [tchriste@uccs.edu](mailto:tchriste@uccs.edu)

Colleagues:

Last Wednesday the Regents passed several resolutions asking the faculty at the campuses to consider ways of enhancing civics education (<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-approve-civics-literacy-initiative>). This was the culmination of months of discussion with the University administration, Faculty Council, and the campus Faculty Assemblies.

The Regents' University Affairs committee offered the following explanation of how they define civics. "Additionally, while not in any way dictating curricula, the committee wants to be clear that, for us, at its most basic level, civics refers to the specific study of the United States governmental system, its history, founding documents, the evolution of the understanding of these documents over time, and the nature of, and challenges to, our liberal democracy. Additionally, efforts to improve civics literacy at the university level should focus on deepening the critical knowledge needed to effectively participate in a diverse society while providing, whenever possible, opportunities for authentic engagement with democratic processes."

One of the Regent resolutions recommends that we consider offering a certificate in civics for interested students. The idea is that this would be primarily based on existing courses, but new courses could be proposed. If you would like to be part of a faculty committee to explore a new cross-disciplinary certificate, and/or if you would like to propose courses for inclusion in such a certificate, please let me know.

Another Regent resolution asks us to consider broader ideas for enhancing civics education. For instance we might consider faculty cluster hires, new majors or minors, new departments, centers or institutes ... This request is open-ended and so any ideas can be considered. The Regents recognize that these ideas might require new financial resources. While no resources have been identified at this time, they have assured us that funding will not come from existing campus resources. If you have an idea, please provide me with a short (1-2 paragraph) description of the idea and a rough estimate of the cost. I am supposed to provide these to the Regents in early May, so please get them to me by April 26.

Thanks for your assistance.

Tom

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