

The Joy Shechtman Mankoff
Center for Teaching & Learning presents ...

Talking Teaching

Spring 2023



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR
GREAT CONVERSATIONS . . . IN PERSON!**

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—typically suggested by our colleagues. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community and to stop & reflect on our teaching and on our students' learning experiences. Topics are listed below, with dates & times and preliminary descriptions.

For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring their thoughts or questions to spark the collective exchange of ideas. ***We are still seeking additional discussants for these events.*** Interest in the topic, not extended preparation, is the only requirement to be a discussant.

Please contact Ginny Anderson or Ariella Rotramel if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant.

We hope to see you at these events!

Take it to the Max: Making Your Semester More Efficient with Moodle & Google & More

Monday 6 February 2023, Noon to 1:30 PM, lunch at 11:45 AM in Hood

Join us for an exploration of tools that can assist you with managing course-related elements this semester. Our curricular technology colleagues will share recent data collected regarding Moodle tools to consider why and how people have used these options to increase efficiency. The conversation will emphasize connections between our teaching aims, student experience, challenges that arrive in the rush of spring, and potential hacks to make our semester easier.

Co-sponsored by Research Support & Curricular Technology.

Discussants include Kate Bengston & Diane Creede.

Responding to Current Student Needs: Sharing Support Among Colleagues

A CTL Talking Teaching Pop-Up

Friday 10 February 2023, 10:30 AM to Noon Blaustein 210

As this is a "pop-up" session, no RSVP is needed. We will provide snacks and coffee.

As the resignation of Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion Rodmon King, its causes and repercussions, impact all of us, we want to offer a space to support staff and faculty colleagues. Although flexible, our event has the following agenda:

1. Discuss how the issue is showing up in your workspaces and what supports you need. We will share strategies for negotiating interactions with students and others, acknowledging power dynamics at play. For example, in classrooms, campus offices, and co-curricular spaces, some students may seek direct guidance while others may find the normalcy of regularly planned work to be what they need at the moment. In this pop-up Talking Teaching, we will share what we've been trying out and the dynamics to consider in various contexts.
2. Discuss preparations for shifts in campus climate as student actions or additional information about this crisis may emerge. We can also pool ideas for support; e.g., colleagues to check in with, information to refer to about [freedom of expression](#), and peer-created resources for students.
3. Collect any informational questions you have that you would like to have shared with FSCC, Staff Council, and the Dean of Faculty's office for follow-up.

The event is co-sponsored by CCSRE, Staff Council, and FSCC.

Alternatives to Course Feedback Forms to Improve Teaching & Learning

Friday 17 February 2023 8:30 AM to 10 AM. Breakfast at 8:15 AM in Hood

Despite being a mainstream information-gathering tool in the academy, course feedback forms (CFFs) continue to be critiqued as inherently biased, as well as being of questionable evidentiary value in faculty hiring and promotion. In this session, we examine alternative approaches for gathering feedback—both during and at the end of our courses—that shed light on our teaching aims and methods rather than "customer service."

Discussants include representatives from the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, CAPT, and AAPC, including: Danielle Egan, Simon Feldman, John Nugent, Andrea Wollensak, and more.

Supporting Student Learning During Times of Disruption

A Talking Teaching Pop-Up

Tuesday 28 February 2023 from 1:30 PM to 3 PM on ZOOM

We know that as a community we are all struggling with the uncertainty of how to manage the stress of campus turmoil while continuing to engage in learning together. This session provides us with an opportunity for faculty and staff to be in dialogue with each other about how best to support students inside and outside of the classroom at this critical time. When might participation in student-driven events be even more impactful for learning than what we might have planned for the semester?

Co-sponsored by FSCC, Staff Council, the Office of Dean of the Faculty, and CCSRE.

Talking Teaching Open Session: Reflection on the Semester Teaching & Mentoring so Far

Monday 6 March 2023, Noon to 1:30 PM, lunch at 11:45 AM in Hood

As we head towards spring break the CTL is hosting an open Talking Teaching session that allows for us to reflect on where we are in the semester, support one another, and share resources. In advance of this session, we seek input from colleagues about their needs ranging from follow-up related to earlier topics to present issues that we can benefit from discussing together.

Please complete this Google Form with your response

<https://forms.gle/jm8yjaox1DJXZFhP6>.

Facilitated by Ginny Anderson & Ariella Rotramel, Talking Teaching Co-Coordinator.

‘A’ is for April, Assess, & Adjust

Friday 7 April 2023, 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Breakfast available at 8:15 AM

[Please register here to RSVP \(https://conncoll.libcal.com/calendar/ctl/April\)](https://conncoll.libcal.com/calendar/ctl/April)

An email reminder from “IS Hours & Events” will be sent to registrants 24 hours before the event.

Inspired by the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)’s emphasis on assessing and adjusting (if you are not already a member, you can sign up for your Connecticut College membership here - www.facultydiversity.org) we are hosting a breakfast conversation focused on assessing and adjusting where we are in the semester. We’ll take a holistic approach to our work—teaching, research, service, life outside of the college— and consider how to say “no,” or limit and reduce pressures on some of these components as we make our way towards the end of the academic year.

Facilitated by Ariella Rotramel & Ginny Anderson, Talking Teaching Co-Coordinator.

[This brochure compiles the CTL Talking Teachings Spring 2023 events to date, including the quickly planned and executed "Pop-Up" events.]