

CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH (SRC)

GOVERNING BOARD

CENTER DIRECTOR: JIM PENNINGS

A. Major issues addressed by the governing board during the 2009-2010 year

1. Discussion of CSR finances and project mix. On-going need to develop contracts, maintain cash flow, and secure grants.
2. Discussion of ways to enhance the roles of CSR in promoting social science at Calvin College, focusing on training students, providing financial, technical and research support to faculty, and assisting the College, Church, and broader community.
3. Reappointment for one additional year of Christina Vanden Bosch-de Nederlanden as CSR Research Associate
4. Purchase of Tableau graphics software
5. Reviewed a wide variety of CSR projects with diverse clients such as Spectrum Health, RDV Corporation, the City of Grand Rapids, and the Christian Reformed Church.

B. Actions your governing board brought before Faculty Senate (if any)

Amendment to CSR By-Laws to include one Board member from either the Department of Business or the Department of Economics (reflecting the recent division of the Department of Business and Economics into separate departments). Previously, the By-Laws required one member from the combined Department.

C. Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the board initiated or implemented

1. Proposal for a 2010-2011 CCCS working group on public policy, religious beliefs and attitudes toward science and technology
2. Creation of two focus groups on “The Role of Congregations in Social Service Delivery,” for the June, 2010 World Conference at Calvin College
3. Approval of six small grants (approximately \$5,000 total). Recipients include Steve McMullen, Becky Haney, Jerry Bergsma, Patricia Nederveld, Jolyn Dalvig, Claudia Beversluis, and John Witte.
4. Continued sponsorship of CSR lecture series. In November, CSR Sponsored a lecture by (then) Grand Rapids City Commissioner, David La Grand on “Community Based Reform of the Justice System.” In April, CSR staff made a presentation entitled, “Who is My Neighbor?” using data collected through the Kent County Congregations Study.
5. Director, James Penning gave papers at the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the Southern Political Science Association (with Steve Monsma) and the Midwest Political Science Association (with Assistant Director, Nil Carlson). Penning also published a co-authored book, *The God Gap: Religion and the 2008 Presidential Election* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2010).
6. Organized a meeting of faculty teaching research methods in various social science departments to share ideas and develop new ways to coordinate efforts and increase teaching effectiveness.

D. Issues that will continue to be before the governing board next year

1. Financial issues, including the appropriate use of the CSR “reserve fund” and the possibility of creating a CSR endowment.
2. On-going need to hire and train a group of excellent student workers.
3. Long-term goal of funding CSR faculty research associates.
4. Continued need to secure new projects as well as to promote social research at Calvin College