

Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC) Review

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I. Statement of rationale for the review:

University policy requires regular reviews of centers every four years to demonstrate that centers are operating cost effectively and are appropriately stewarding resources provided by the university. Below we make the case that the Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC) is meeting those University goals, adding value and services that would otherwise not be available to the University.

II. Comprehensive self-study:

A. Mission

- Original mission statement

The Program for the Study of Crime and Delinquency was established by the Provost in 1971 to promote interdisciplinary research and intellectual exchange on topics of crime, delinquency, and the administration of Justice. Originally housed in the School of Public Administration, the Program was sanctioned and carried out by the efforts of affiliated faculty from around the University. This continued for nearly two decades. In 1989, the University approved changing the name of the program to the CJRC. The newly formed CJRC continued its focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, a focus that continues to this day.

At the time CJRC was initially approved, there were three goals: 1) conducting and promoting interdisciplinary research on crime, juvenile delinquency, and the administration of justice, 2) establishing an environment in which continuing instruction and intellectual exchange can take place among faculty members, researchers, graduate students, policy makers, and criminal justice practitioners, and 3) providing information and consultation to governmental and social agencies and citizens' groups and to assist in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy.

The original proposal establishing the center, annual reports, and other relevant documents are attached to the end of this report as an addendum.

- Current Description or list of all center activities, events, initiatives, etc, that have contributed to fulfilling the mission and objectives of the center. If current activities of the center differ from those originally envisaged or articulated in the mission statement, explain this evolution.

Below we describe how the current activities of the Center comport with the original stated mission.

Original Mission item (1): conducting and promoting interdisciplinary research on crime, juvenile delinquency, and the administration of justice.

Based on considerable self-study and feedback from the oversight committee, we identified three key foci for the Center's research activities: (a) research collaboration with police agencies to assist with pressing problems and issues, (b) research collaboration with corrections or other agencies to study returning citizens under correctional control as they transition back into the community, and (c) promoting the research of junior faculty, in particular RAISE scholars, and graduate student affiliates, via seed grants.

(a) Research collaboration with police agencies

- The Center recently (January 2024) completed deliverables on a contract (\$50k) from the Columbus Police Department (CPD) to address a series of research questions pertaining to the recent surge in criminal violence.
- The Center has developed a working relationship with the Franklin County Sheriffs. CJRC recently obtained funding (\$37k) for research in support of a violence prevention grant awarded to the Franklin County Sheriffs, with the potential for additional funds.
- CJRC program manager Chris Yanai, along with CJRC faculty affiliates Victor St. John, Tasha Purdue, and Kristen Harlow are collaborating on a grant proposal to study law enforcement responses to the opioid crisis. This collaboration emerged out of our involvement in the Healing Communities Study and outreach to faculty affiliates.

(b) Research collaboration with corrections agencies to study returning citizens

- CJRC is in negotiations for a \$200k research contract with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to evaluate the employment and recidivism outcomes of participants in the Ohio Penal Industries

(c) Promoting research via seed grants

- In 2023, CJRC awarded five \$1000 seed grants to graduate students from multiple departments including Sociology and Political Science.
- In 2023, CJRC awarded one \$3000 seed grant to a junior faculty affiliate in the School of Nursing.

Original Mission Item (2): establishing an environment in which continuing instruction and intellectual exchange can take place among faculty members, researchers, graduate students, policy makers, and criminal justice practitioners

When Bellair was appointed, the Center's affiliate structure was badly out of date. To correct that, we embarked on a program of outreach among OSU faculty. We asked long-time affiliates to renew their affiliation, and we invited new affiliates to join. The response was incredibly positive. As a result of this initiative, we affirmed 51 currently active faculty affiliates, including at least five new faculty members that wanted to become affiliated.

This initiative has allowed CJRC to create a community of faculty, staff, and students united by their interests in criminal justice issues and research from across the Arts and Sciences and the University. The object is to create collaboration and opportunities to pursue funded research.

To help facilitate this sense of community, CJCR sponsors the Reckless-Dinitz lecture, a formal annual event featuring a prominent scholar who delivers a lecture on pressing criminal justice issues. This event was suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. In 2022 the event

was held virtually. In 2023 we returned to an in-person event, with attendance of over 50 faculty, graduate students, and community leaders including high ranking officers from the Columbus Police Department. This year Dr. Robin Engle from the National Policing Institute and the University of Cincinnati will deliver the lecture. Dr. Engel is a nationally renowned expert on police reform. We are excited for the event and for the potential turnout.

CJRC also holds regular brown bag events for CJRC affiliates. We held three events in fall 2023 and are planning 3 more for spring 2024. The purpose of these events is to allow faculty affiliates to learn about criminal justice research being conducted by faculty members across the University and to facilitate exchanges between faculty affiliates and criminal justice agencies. Our fall 2023 events were very well attended, with each event attracting well over 20 affiliates, as well as graduate students from multiple departments.

One of the things we learned from our brown bag series is that, prior to our efforts to revitalize our affiliate structure, faculty members in different colleges and units had been working in relative isolation, often unaware of the presence of shared interests and expertise in other parts of the University. The discovery of these shared interests via participation in CJRC events demonstrates the vital importance of CJRC as a conduit, connector, and focal point for faculty members across the university. Moreover, based on conversations with affiliates at our 2023 events and feedback from the CJRC oversight committee, it has become apparent core interests of our faculty affiliates align remarkably well with the CJRC's two research foci identified above (i.e., on policing and research on returning citizens). There is a tremendous amount of intellectual energy across the University around issues of police reform, citizen-community relations, and the difficulties faced by returning citizens. The CJRC is the key focal point for that energy.

In addition to community-building among faculty affiliates and associated graduate students, there are several ways that CJRC contributes to its educational mission involving undergraduate students. First, CJRC's undergraduate internship program connects OSU undergraduates with CJ agencies so that they can explore career opportunities and gain real world experience. This program touches many undergraduate students who are placed into meaningful internship experiences of their

choosing. These internships satisfy requirements of the Sociology and Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies major and minor programs and/or are formative experiences that help guide our student's career choices. Many students have gone on from these internships into full time criminal justice positions, and others have used them as a springboard into graduate study and research, including at OSU. Moreover, the program provides a service to local agencies that is consistent with the Universities land grant mission. Second, CJRC's program manager advises the Sociology and Criminology club (which is open to all OSU students) with frequent speakers and tours of criminal justice facilities.

Original mission item (3): providing information and consultation to governmental and social agencies and citizens' groups and to assist in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy.

The CJRC routinely and actively interacts with government agencies that reach out for information or that are looking for a research partner, whether it be to identify faculty who may be interested in helping with research, or to obtain feedback on proposed policies. This sometimes takes the case of one-off queries by agencies or organization, but the CJRC also has three sets of ongoing consultative relationships:

- CJRC is assisting faculty in the Glenn School with their efforts to create a new PhD curriculum in Evidence Based Policing. This new curriculum, if approved, will train officers in the principles of the dialogue model and other evidence based, best practices.
- The CJRC is part of a team assisting CPD's efforts to move from a disorder model of crowd response to a dialogue model during protests and demonstrations. In particular, we are collaborating with CJRC affiliate and oversight committee member Professor Russell Hassan.
- Bellair is a member of the Franklin County Reentry Coalition, regularly attends their meetings, and interacts with them via email on a regular basis.

B. Faculty and Student Involvement and Contribution

Current Faculty Affiliates. All those listed here have attended events and/or indicated their desire to become or continue as CJRC affiliates within the past year:

Name	Department or School
Judson Jeffries	African-American and African Studies
Carmen Winant	Art
Osei Appiah	Communication
Brad Bushman	Communication
Michael Slater	Communication
Trevon Logan	Economics
Bruce Weinberg	Economics
Antoinette Errante	Educational Studies
James Moore III	Educational Studies
Simone Drake	English
Matthew Coleman	Geography
Randolph Roth	History
Stephen Gavazzi	Human Sciences
Kenneth Steinman	Human Sciences
Deanna Wilkinson	Human Sciences
Jason Reece	Knowlton School of Architecture
Doug Berman	Moritz School of Law
Katherine Federle	Moritz School of Law
Creola Johnson	Moritz School of Law
Alan Michaels	Moritz School of Law
Ric Simmons	Moritz School of Law
Jodi Ford	Nursing
Tracey Overbey	OSU Libraries
Vladimir Kogan	Political Science
Nicole Yadon	Political Science
Tom Nelson	Political Science
Arvind Krishnamurthy	Political Science
Gregory Leslie	Political Science
John Gibbs	Psychology
Russell Hassan	Public Affairs
Victor St. John	Public Affairs
Tasha Perdue	Public Affairs
Rob Greenbaum	Public Affairs
Alan Davis	Social Work
Keith Warren	Social Work

Terrance Hinton	Sociology
Debbie Wilson	Sociology
Brandon Alston	Sociology
Laura Dugan	Sociology
Michael Vuolo	Sociology
Chris Browning	Sociology
Angela Bryant	Sociology
Dana Haynie	Sociology
Ryan King	Sociology
Marianna Klochko	Sociology
Hollie Nyseth Nzizatira	Sociology
Townsend Price-Spratlen	Sociology
Vinnie Roscigno	Sociology
Hui Zheng	Sociology
Wendy Smooth	WGSS
Mary Thomas	WGSS

Past Faculty Affiliates:

Name	Department or School
Dale F. Bertsch	City and Regional Planning
Bonnie Fisher	City and Regional Planning
Jack Nasar	City and Regional Planning
Joseph J. Pilote	Communication
William Ackerman	Geography
Eugene J. Watts	History
Albert B. Bishop	Industrial and Systems Engineering
Lawrence Herman	Law
Louis A. Jacobs	Law
Deborah Merritt	Law
Michael Kindred	Law
LeRoy Pernel	Law
Joshua Dressler	Law
James E. Storbeck	Management Sciences
Gwendolyn Cartledge	PAES
Andrew G. Oldenquist	Philosophy
Lawrence A. Baum	Political Science
Elliot E. Slotnick	Political Science
George T. Harding, IV	Psychiatry
John C. Gibbs	Psychology
Ray Montemayor	Psychology

C. Ronald Huff	Public Policy
Joseph Donnermeyer	Rural Sociology
Beverly G. Toomey	Social Work
Rudolph Alexander	Social Work
Audrey Begun	Social Work
Tom Gregoire	Social Work
Simon Dinitz	Sociology
Richard J. Lundman	Sociology
Ruth D. Peterson	Sociology
Joseph E. Scott	Sociology
David Jacobs	Sociology
Elizabeth Stasny	Statistics
Cathy Rakowski	WGSS

Below, we list recent selected publications by our affiliates, which include co-authored publications with graduate student affiliates, that are most central to our mission.

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Eveland, William P., and **Osei Appiah**. "A national conversation about race? Political discussion across lines of racial and partisan difference." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 6.1 (2021): 187-213.

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Simon Kolbeck, **Steven Lopez & Paul Bellair** (2023) Does Stable Employment after Prison Reduce Recidivism Irrespective of Prior Employment and Offending? *Justice Quarterly*, DOI: [10.1080/07418825.2023.2201330](https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2023.2201330).

Kolbeck, Simon G., **Paul E. Bellair**, and **Steven Lopez**. "Race, work history, and the employment recidivism relationship." *Criminology* 60, no. 4 (2022): 637-666.

Vinegrad, Alan, and **Douglas A. Berman**. "More Justice from Justice: The DOJ's Latest Charging, Plea, and Sentencing Policies." *Federal Sentencing Reporter* 35.3 (2023): 153-156.

Demleitner, N., **Douglas A. Berman**, Miller, M. L., & Wright, R. F. (2022). *Sentencing law and policy: Cases, statutes, and guidelines*. Aspen Publishing.

Pinchak, N. P., **Chris Browning**, Boettner, B., Calder, C. A., & Tarrence, J. (2023). Paws on the Street: Neighborhood-Level Concentration of Households with Dogs and Urban Crime. *Social Forces*, 101(4), 1888-1917.

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Payne, Yasser Arafat, and **Angela Bryant**. "Street participatory action research in prison: A methodology to challenge privilege and power in correctional facilities." *The Prison Journal* 98.4 (2018): 449-469.

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Susmann, M. W., Dixon, G. N., **Bushman, B. J.**, & Garrett, R. K. (2022). Correcting misperceptions of gun policy support can foster intergroup cooperation between gun owners and non-gun owners. *PLoS one*, 17(6), e0268601.

Huesmann, L. R., Dubow, E. F., B Boxer, P., **Bushman, B. J.**, S Smith, C., A Docherty, M., & J O'Brien, M. (2021). Longitudinal predictions of young adults' weapons use and criminal behavior from their childhood exposure to violence. *Aggressive behavior*, 47(6), 621-634.

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- List all student publications, lectures, grants, or other activities related to their work with the center.

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C. Administrative Structure and Responsibilities

- Description of administrative structure.
- Responsibilities and activities of all administrative staff, indicating their contributions to the mission of the center and its objectives.

After several COVID years in which many on-campus activities were dormant, the past two years have been very fruitful for the development of CJRC's vision and leadership. Importantly, CJRC appointed Professor Steven Lopez, who has a strong service orientation, as the Associate Director. Dr. Lopez was recently awarded the President and Provost's Award for Distinguished Faculty Service, which recognizes faculty for contributing to and implementing new and important university policies that are not tied to a specific administrative role. The addition of Professor Lopez provides strong leadership and enhances our momentum in achieving the vision of the center. In the short time since Dr. Lopez was appointed, he has spearheaded the overhaul of the CJRC website, which to our knowledge had not been touched for at least 10 years or more. Dr. Lopez also collaborates with the director on research and administrative work in the center.

With the addition of Dr. Lopez, the CJRC consists of two faculty (the director and associate director) and one staff member whose position is titled "program manager." The program manager (Christopher Yanai), who reports to and is supervised by the CJRC Director, has several duties. He was hired by the previous CJRC Director at 60% FTE to administer an internship program that is geared primarily towards helping undergraduates find internship placements that suit their interests. His other primary duty is to coordinate the planning of the annual Reckless-Dinitz lecture, which is a higher profile event for the center that helps garner development funds. He also works with the Director to engage the criminal justice system as opportunities arise.

Since 2019, the program manager has increased his effort to 100% FTE, with 40% of his time funded by the ongoing Healing Communities Study (HCS), which was fielded by the late Dr. Rebecca Jackson of the OSU Wexner Medical Center. Yanai's duties with the HCS study are to collect data on opioid treatments that are being administered by staff members in county jails and to help with revision of the data collection instrument when requested by the HCS principal investigator.

CJRC recently received approval to fill a 50% FTE researcher position in the center. The position has been filled by Dr. Terrance Hinton, Ph.D., who brings experience teaching employment related programming to individuals with felony records, including restored citizens. Dr. Hinton assists in every facet of the CJRC's operation. His primary duties include assisting the director and associate director in active research projects, assisting with data analysis and grant proposals as needed, coordinating CJRC's initiative with the incoming RAISE CJ hires, assisting planning colloquia, and other duties as needed.

- Oversight committee, indicating their contributions to the mission of the center and its objectives.

CJRC has an oversight committee that meets at least quarterly. In 2023 the committee provided excellent feedback and advice on the direction of the center. In particular, the oversight committee has proposed that CJRC needs to develop a strategic plan, and has committed to working with CJRC leadership in the coming year to develop it.

The committee is a diverse body of accomplished scholars with strong criminal justice research interests. It includes members from several departments of varying rank, with strong representation by gender and under-represented groups. We are thankful to Laura Dugan (Sociology), Russell Hassan (John Glenn College of Public Affairs), Judson Jeffries (African American and African Studies), Brad Bushman (School of Communication), Townshend Price- Spratlen

(Sociology), Tasha Purdue (John Glenn College of Public Affairs), and Nicole Yadon (Political Science) for serving on our oversight committee.

- Pattern of administration

1. The Center will consist of a director, associate director, program manager, other staff as needed and approved, faculty and staff associates, and a faculty oversight committee consisting of at least three members. The Center's director will report to the SBS Divisional Dean, who has fiscal oversight responsibility for the CJRC. Both the Center and the SBS Division in which it is housed are components of the College of Arts and Sciences and are thus responsible to its dean.

2. Policies of the Center will be established by the director, in consultation with the associate director and the faculty oversight committee. The oversight committee will also be responsible for monitoring the implementation of these policies to ensure that the Center's and the University's objectives are being met.

3. The administrator of the Center will be the director. The present director will continue to serve in this capacity. However, when the position of director is vacant, the SBS Divisional Dean shall prepare a job description in consultation with the ASC dean and with the Center's faculty oversight committee and shall consult with members of that committee, as well as faculty and staff associates, before an appointment is made.

4. The Associate Director is appointed by the Director and works collaboratively with the Director to plan and execute the strategic mission and goals of the center as well as its activities. This includes budget planning, personnel decisions, scheduling seminars and the Reckless-Dinitz annual lecture, completion of research projects, and engagement with the University and criminal justice (CJ) agencies in the community.

5. The administrator of the Center, with assistance from the associate director, will be responsible day-to-day operations of the Center, including:

- a. administration of University budgetary accounts;

- b. supervision of staff assigned to the Center;
- c. coordination with all faculty/staff associates;
- d. coordination of grant proposals;
- e. initial response to requests for information;
- f. planning and coordination of colloquia, seminars,
- g. and all other Center activities; and
- h. preparation of an annual report.

6. The Faculty Oversight Committee will:

- a. meet with the director at least quarterly during the academic year to review the activities of the Center and to assist in planning;
- b. provide general support of the Center and its mission;
- c. monitor the policies of the Center and their agreement with the University's mission;
- d. provide general oversight and review of the Center;
- e. consult with the director during preparation of the annual report; and
- f. develop recommendations concerning reporting lines, governance, effectiveness, and the evaluation to be conducted every four years by the Office of Academic Affairs.

D. Budget

- Current budget.
- Projected budget for next four years.
- Past budgets since last review.
- Description of the **budgetary context** for the center, outlining **specific information regarding those expenses charged to the university's general funds**. Externally generated

funds produced by the center should be itemized and linked to the functions and services articulated in the mission statement.

The Criminal Justice Research Center’s FY23 budget is sourced from of a combination of general funding (\$191,695.39), indirect funds (\$138,913.85) and endowment distribution funding (\$35,479.42). These funds are used to support personnel, fringe benefits, general operation supplies and services, events, and research grants programs.

The current fiscal year general funds budget is detailed below.

- A. Personnel Costs – \$138,000. This consists of payment to the Director, Assistant Director, Staff and Graduate Research Associate.
- B. Fringe Benefits – \$34,000. These benefits are paid to all according to the university designated percentage allocation.
- C. Graduate Fee Authorizations – \$7,000. This GFA covers payment of the instructional and general fees, nonresident tuition and learning technology fees.
- D. Travel – \$2,000. Travel expenses are for the Reckless-Dinitz guest speaker.
- E. Services – \$2,000. Funds for various services for the center.
- F. Human Subject Payments – \$5,000. Funds awarded to graduate students to pay for participants of their research.
- G. Events - \$3,500. Funds for the Annual Reckless-Dinitz Lecture.

Historical Budget Data:

Fiscal Year	GFA	Transfers	Expenses	Year-end Balance
FY19	\$159,378.09	\$55,715.23	\$221,675.04	-\$7,203.84
FY20	\$182,598.37	\$0.00	\$159,880.63	\$22,717.74
FY21	\$192,859.70	\$6,130.68	\$198,990.38	\$0.00
FY22	\$189,968.48	-\$7,282.57	\$182,685.91	\$0.00
*As of 4/30/23				
Source: Peoplesoft and WD				

Projected Budget:

The projected budget for the Criminal Justice Research Center is expected to increase by 3% - 5% AMCP increase for faculty and staff.

E. Evaluative Criteria and Benchmarks

- List of evaluative criteria and benchmarks articulated in the original center proposal, identifying and describing the degree to which the center has met (or failed to meet) its stated evaluative criteria and benchmarks.

The original proposal discusses three broad goals but does not articulate any specific evaluative criteria or benchmarks for meeting those goals.

Below we articulate specific benchmarks for the Center related to its three broad goals and describe the degree to which the Center is meeting them.

Center Goal (1): Conducting and promoting interdisciplinary research on crime, juvenile delinquency, and the administration of justice.

Benchmarks for success in this area would include:

- (a) successful collaboration with or performance of research for local, state, or federal criminal justice agencies

As described in more detail above, this benchmark is being met:

- CJRC regularly conducts research for CJ agencies and has an active pipeline of future projects.
- (b) facilitation of interdisciplinary research collaboration among faculty affiliates via the cross-disciplinary conversations and interaction created by the CJRC and its events

As described in detail above, this benchmark is being met:

- Affiliates are engaged in ongoing and new cross-disciplinary research collaborations including grant seeking
- Affiliates regularly publish high-quality interdisciplinary research (as indicated by the selected publication list)

(c) support for the research programs of junior and RAISE scholars and graduate students via seed grant funding

As described in detail above, this benchmark is being met:

- CJRC made 5 research awards of \$1,000 each to graduate student affiliates, and 1 award of \$3,000 to a faculty affiliate.

Center Goal (2): Establish an environment in which continuing instruction and intellectual exchange can take place among faculty members, researchers, graduate students, policy makers, and criminal justice practitioners.

Benchmarks for success in this area would include:

(a) Maintaining the Reckless-Dinitz lecture as a high-profile and well-attended annual event

As described above, this benchmark is being met.

- After a multi-year interruption, we have returned to an in-person format; we have been able to attract leading scholars to deliver the lecture, and attendance was strong in 2023 (i.e., over 50).

(b) Holding regular, well-attended brown-bag events to facilitate cross-disciplinary intellectual exchange as well as exchange among faculty affiliates, policy makers, and criminal justice practitioners

As described above, this benchmark is being met.

- In 2023, we held three brown-bag events that were well-attended and affiliates commented on the value of these events in connecting them with like-minded researchers in other disciplines.

- (c) Continuing provision of criminal justice internship opportunities for undergraduate students.

This benchmark is being met:

- In 2023, CJRC worked with 65 students to help facilitate internship opportunities and career choices.

Center goal (3): to provide information and consultation to governmental and social agencies and citizens' groups and to assist in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy.

Benchmarks for success in this area would include:

- (a) Criminal justice agencies view the Center as an important source of information and advice

As described above, this benchmark is being met:

- The Center regularly receives inquiries from local state and federal CJ agencies for advice and consultation on issues of interest to them

- (b) CJRC maintains a visible presence among Ohio coalitions of CJ practitioners and contributes to governmental initiatives around re-entry reform.

As described above, this benchmark is being met:

- The CJRC director sits on the board of the Ohio ReEntry Coalition and actively participates in policy discussions and strategic planning regarding how to better support and assist returning citizens as they transition back to the community.

- (c) CJRC helps advise police organizations on best practices

As described above, this benchmark is being met:

- CJRC is helping the Columbus Police Department transition to a more forward-thinking approach to demonstration and legal protest response.