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February 9th, 2024

Dear Randy Smith and the OAA Center Review Committee:

As faculty from various units in the university who serve as members of the Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC) Oversight Board, we write to share our enthusiasm for CJRC, its current direction, and its longer-term trajectory in terms of growth and impact.

First, the CJRC is involved in several active research projects with criminal justice agencies in Ohio and collaborates with other academic units in the university to help them achieve their research goals:

- The CJRC just completed an analysis of violence trends in Columbus, OH. This project was funded by the Columbus Police Department (CPD). A report has been shared with CPD and it has indicated that they would like to continue the relationship with CJRC.
- The CJRC is currently supporting Glenn College in its “LEGACY” project funded by the City of Columbus and the U.S. Department of Justice. The project has three goals. The first entails working with the CPD to evaluate the implementation of its new “dialogue-based” crowd management approach that aims to facilitate the exercise of protestors First Amendment rights. The second goal is to examine routine police data to understand the root causes of racial disparities in policing practices and outcomes in Columbus. The third is designing a community survey to evaluate community members’ perceptions of policing practices and assess the feasibility of developing and offering a series of professional development courses on evidence-based policing at OSU.
- CJRC and its affiliates are committing resources to support this project. Professor Bellair is providing data from his CPD award to study violent crime trends and will also devote some center resources (e.g., time of Dr. Terrance Hinton) to support this project. As well, Professor Bellair will be involved as requested by Professor Hassan. This is a critically important type of land-grant service Ohio State provides to the community.
- CJRC has participated substantially in the Healing Communities Study, which is housed in the medical school. In particular, CJRC has collected data from several county-level law enforcement agencies to document law enforcement responses to the opioid crisis.

Additionally, in the past year, the Director and Associate Director have taken additional steps to engage faculty across the university, and it has become clear that there is a substantial amount of enthusiasm for CJRC. Specifically, a critical mass of faculty from around the university – including the Dept. of Sociology, Political Science, Glenn College, Schools of Public Health, Nursing, Art, and Communication, as well as the new Race, Inclusion, and Social Equity

(RAISE) hires across multiple units including the Glenn College, Moritz College of Law, Depts. of Political Science, and Sociology – turned out for CJRC events this past fall and contributed to a sense of renewed excitement about the CJRC. So far these events have been well attended by faculty.

These efforts have led to new associations among faculty who were not previously in conversation with each other. We attended the CJRC's fall events and we were impressed with the way they were organized to stimulate informal connections among faculty. The events brought people together who didn't previously know one another but whose shared research interests, and potential for new collaborations, became evident.

These new associations are the vehicle through which the CJRC brings expertise to bear on several critically important substantive and policy areas, including policing reform, police-community relations, and violence prevention. There is no other institutional vehicle at Ohio State to focus scholarly attention and collaboration on these issues. Consequently, we hope the college and university will continue to support the CJRC and its impactful work.

Sincerely,

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Laura Dugan, Department of Sociology
Judson Jeffries, Department of African American and African Studies
Tasha Perdue, Glenn College of Public Affairs
Townsend Price-Spratlen, Department of Sociology
Russell Hassan, Glenn College of Public Affairs
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