

CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #642

Create new BuddyPress Profile Field to Designate Role

2011-03-17 06:31 PM - Matt Gold

Status:	Resolved	Start date:	2011-03-17
Priority name:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Matt Gold	% Done:	0%
Category name:	BuddyPress (misc)	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	Not tracked		
Description			
Building upon this ticket - http://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/issues/show/629 , I'd like to continue our discussion of the ways in which we should ask people to define themselves on the Commons. Namely, I'd like us to consider a profile field that would have people identify themselves as faculty members, grad students, staff, non-CUNY collaborators, etc.			
A few questions:			
1. What should the roles be? Here's a starter list:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faculty member• CUNY staff member• CUNY administrator (should staff/administrator be collapsed?)• Graduate Student• Non-CUNY collaborator			
2. Should the field be required? I say yes. What do you think?			
3. Should it be a checkbox so that people can check more than one role if needed? I say yes.			
Thoughts/other questions?			
Related issues:			
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #629: Create Required Profile Fiel...		Resolved	2011-03-01
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #643: Create Mechanism to Require ...		Resolved	2011-03-17
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #370: Guest Accounts		Assigned	2010-10-08
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #1199: Add Option for Open Text Fi...		Resolved	2011-09-25

History

#1 - 2011-03-17 06:32 PM - Matt Gold

- Category name set to BuddyPress (misc)
- Status changed from New to Assigned
- Assignee set to Matt Gold
- Target version set to Not tracked

#2 - 2011-03-26 08:30 PM - Boone Gorges

- Tracker changed from Bug to Feature

#3 - 2011-09-20 11:39 PM - Matt Gold

Hi All,

Given the discussion going on right now about new non-CUNY members, I'd like to see if we can take care of this relatively quickly.

So, a few issues and questions:

1. I'd like to propose, per Chris's suggestion in the Commons group, that we add "Non-CUNY" to the drop-down list of colleges.
2. Then, I'd like to set, as a required field, something called "Position," that would have the following options: Administrator, Faculty Member, Graduate Student, Other, Staff

Any objections? I'm on the fence about "Other" -- don't know whether it's necessary or not. It might be a choice that, say, errant undergrads might pick. But I'm happy to leave it out. Thoughts?

Technical Questions:

1. Boone, as I understand it, these changes will need to be made directly on the production server through the Network Admin > BuddyPress profile settings. Am I right about that? (ie., this would not be done through Git)

2. If we set these as required profile fields, what will happen to people who have not yet filled them out?

Thanks in advance to all of you for your thoughts.

#4 - 2011-09-21 12:01 AM - Michael Smith

I like the Non-CUNY title, simple and appropriate.

Looking at the original post, I think it might make sense to include "collaborator" or something similar in the drop-down. This could fulfill the role for non-CUNY members that might otherwise select "other." And then we might feel comfortable nixing "other."

And the original post mentions "role" versus the proposed "position." Somehow role seems a less hierarchical a term, not sure.

#5 - 2011-09-21 12:05 AM - Matt Gold

Yes, I like "Role" better than "Position," too. Thanks. Let's go with that.

My thought is that Non-CUNY members of the site are still likely to be faculty members, administrators, staff, grad students, etc. -- and so, they would choose "Non-CUNY" as a College and, say, "Faculty" as a role. Choosing "Collaborator" as a role, when the other choices are defined in traditional ways, might be strange. But I do agree with you that it's might be best not to include "Other"

#6 - 2011-09-21 12:06 AM - Matt Gold

And one more thing -- the reason I'd like to have even Non-CUNY people choose something like "Faculty" or "Administrator" is that it will still be useful for our statistical analyses to know how many faculty members, etc., we have on the site.

#7 - 2011-09-21 12:11 AM - Boone Gorges

Boone, as I understand it, these changes will need to be made directly on the production server through the Network Admin > BuddyPress profile settings. Am I right about that? (ie., this would not be done through Git)

Correct.

If we set these as required profile fields, what will happen to people who have not yet filled them out?

See [#643](#)

Then, I'd like to set, as a required field, something called "Position," that would have the following options: Administrator, Faculty Member, Graduate Student, Other, Staff

CUNYites often drift between roles. I vote: make them checkboxes, so you can select more than one. Include an "Other" checkbox with a text field where someone can enter something else. The concern about undergraduates using such a box seems a bit misplaced; if an undergrad wants on the site, a dropdown's not going to stop them.

#8 - 2011-09-21 12:21 AM - Matt Gold

Thanks, Boone. I like the checkboxes; let's go with that, though one detriment to that approach is that the less constrained our choices, the harder it could potentially be to analyze the numbers of people in various roles. Then again, more constrained choices can lead to bad data if people are required to fill out a field that doesn't include a logical choice for them. So let's go with checkboxes.

FWIW, I wasn't thinking that dropdowns would stop undergrads so much as help us identify some of them. But, in the end, that's neither here nor there....

#9 - 2011-09-24 01:16 PM - Matt Gold

- Status changed from Assigned to Resolved

Okay: this is done. Someone else (Boone?) had already added "**Non-CUNY" to the College list. I added a new required field called "Role" to the Profile. I set it up as checkboxes, but I didn't see a way to have one of those checkboxes open out in a text field if selected (ie., "If Other, please describe:")

#10 - 2011-09-24 03:22 PM - Boone Gorges

Someone else (Boone?) had already added "**Non-CUNY" to the College list

Not me.

I didn't see a way to have one of those checkboxes open out in a text field if selected

OK, this can be a further enhancement at some point.