

## **Professional Development Committee**

February 27, 2007, 2:45 - 4:05 P.M.

Principal's Conference Room

**Members:** Patty Zatkan, Charlie Dullea, Kate Kodros, Paul Molinelli, Hillary McKinney, Kevin Quattrin, Elizabeth Purcell, John Stiegeler, Grace Curcio

**Excused:** Meredith Galvin, Steve Bluford

**Guests:** Mike Shaughnessy, Mike Thomas

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

### **1. "One Man's Sabbatical Journey" (Mike Shaughnessy)**

Mike delivered a PowerPoint presentation detailing last year's sabbatical project. He led the Committee through his sabbatical journey, where he sought to answer the question, "How do we define, accomplish, and assess formation?" Mike discussed how and why he conceived of this sabbatical project. He explained the need for defining more clearly *what* spiritual formation is, how and by whom it's accomplished, and how we know (or *assess*) its success. Mike's journey took him to numerous Jesuit (and several non-Jesuit) high schools across the country, in addition to Boston College University). At these schools he interviewed many of the educators responsible for this each school's formation goals (i.e., ESLRs). Mike found that for many schools (particularly non-Jesuit schools), responsibility and accountability for achieving spiritual formation goals was not always clear; many schools simply assumed they were successfully achieving their spiritual/religious outcomes, yet they had not assessed in any systematic way whether they had been successful. Among Mike's central conclusions were these: (1) Schools that were more successful at achieving their formation goals had created a formal structure or group that served to shape and monitor the school's formation outcomes, and (2) these schools also developed assessments to help them determine whether students were achieving these goals or outcomes. One such assessment method is the sophomore interview (conducted at the end of sophomore year), which SI has incorporated into its current WASC Action Plan to be implemented over the next several years.

### **2. March 8<sup>th</sup> In-service: "Stressed Out Students Project at SI" (Mike Thomas)**

Mike submitted and the Committee reviewed a proposed agenda he had received from Denise Pope, founder and director of the Stressed Out Students Project at Stanford University. Several suggested changes were made, integrated into the summarized agenda below:

**8:00 – Ministry Morning** (Bannan Theater, led by Katie Wolf)

**8:30 – Breakfast** (Carlin Commons)

**9:30 – In-service: "Stressed Out Students Project at SI"** (Orradre Chapel, led by Denise Pope)

*In-service Goals:*

1. Examine the concept of student engagement and discuss strategies to increase engagement at SI.
2. Discuss SOS work at SI and review survey data.

3. Discuss SOS effective practices to improve student engagement and reduce stress in areas such as student assessment, curriculum planning, and homework load.
4. Reflect on these strategies and identify future tasks.

*Proposed Agenda:*

1. Workshop overview and introductory remarks. [Charlie, Denise]
2. What is engagement? Definitions, brainstorm, research. [Denise]
3. Review backward design and its relationship to engagement. [Denise]
4. Small Group Activity (within departments): Consider units (past/present) and re-envision in light of strategies reviewed above. [Denise]
5. Individual reflection questions and quick share [Denise, Rita]

BREAK (20 minutes)

6. SOS at SI: overview of activities: [Charlie, Kelly]
7. Share SI Research: review results and analysis of parent data, student and faculty surveys; Q & A. [Denise, Jerusha]
8. Mini-Workshop on Homework: Using several real homework assignments, we'll look at how this common source of student stress can be examined.
9. Wrap-up [Charlie]

**1:00 – Conclusion of In-service**

Mike Thomas and Paul will conference with Denise on Thursday to discuss the outline above, as well as other specific details of agenda.

**3. Summer Curriculum Grants**

Paul distributed copies of grant applications that had been submitted this week, including the new rubric to be piloted during this process. The Committee will peruse the applications over the next few weeks, and all agreed to schedule applicants' presentations over two days: Wednesday, March 21, and Thursday, March 22. The Committee can then convene at its next scheduled meeting (March 27) to discuss the grants and make its decisions. This way, all applicants should know the outcome of their applications before Easter Break.

Meeting Adjourned.