

## **Professional Development Committee**

October 28, 2009, 2:45 - 3:45 P.M.  
Principal's Conference Room

**Present:** Katy Dumas, Mary McCarty, Paul Molinelli, Jan Mullen, Carole Nickolai, Patrick Ruff, Shannon Vanderpol, Dan Vollert, Meegan Whelan, Chad Zullinger

**Absent:** Don Gamble, Chuck Murphy

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

**In-service & CDRP:** Paul distributed and asked Committee members to review the in-service evaluations. He noted that the objectives of the in-service were generally met, reflected both in the multiple-choice and open-response items from the evaluation. Faculty indicated in their comments the value of hearing colleagues share their experiences of curriculum design and review within their courses and levels.

Paul noted that CDRP resources would be posted on a [CDRP webpage](http://www.siprep.org/prodev/cdrp.cfm) (<http://www.siprep.org/prodev/cdrp.cfm>) by the end of the week. These would include all materials presented during the in-service, including faculty presentations. In addition, various process documents would be posted, including worksheets and a timeline of "next steps" for all courses/levels.

Paul asked the Committee for their feedback on the in-service. Committee members were universal in their support of this process, excited about the opportunity to engage in such important work of practical and lasting value. One Committee member noted that to ensure the success of CDRP, follow-up will be crucial. All agreed, and Paul underscored that the in-service was merely the start of a process of systematic curriculum review.

Another Committee member mentioned that it would be valuable for his department to invite colleagues from other schools to share some best practices. Paul added that plans are underway to host after-school workshops on topics relevant to CDRP. He mentioned that Peter Imperial, Principal of St. Mary's High School and member of the Board of Regents, has agreed to lead a workshop on assessment and grading on Wednesday, November 18, from 2:45-3:45. Kevin Quattrin will also lead an after-school workshop, yet to be scheduled, on how to use data to inform curriculum and program decisions.

Discussion and questions followed about how CDRP will proceed (e.g., Will teachers work individually or by levels?). In addressing these questions, Paul and Carole noted that these and other details would be available on the [CDRP webpage](http://www.siprep.org/prodev/cdrp.cfm) (<http://www.siprep.org/prodev/cdrp.cfm>) and will be reviewed at Friday's Academic Council meeting.

In discussing the benefits of CDRP, one Committee member noted the grade-level to grade-level curriculum coordination that a process like this promotes. Patrick Ruff elaborated by noting the value of improving both vertical and horizontal articulation among courses, within and across disciplines.

More discussion followed about how to extend and/or improve upon the in-service. One member asked how we might be able to foster more cross-curricular conversations, beyond merely sharing of ideas. Many agreed that the in-service day

was packed, that many people would have appreciated more time to have conversation with colleagues, both within and beyond one's department.

Another Committee member suggested that as a way to foster ongoing conversation and dialogue about CDRP, perhaps we should consider sharing work and resources with each other via a shared folder. Other members thought this might be helpful, either in conjunction with or instead of a wiki or blog.

### **Mary's Sabbatical Presentation**

Mary Ahlback presented a brief overview of her sabbatical, which emphasized both the professional and personal rejuvenation it afforded her. The primary professional aim of Mary's sabbatical was to develop a curriculum for taking seniors through the 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. To do this, Mary traveled extensively and consulted with experts about the Spiritual Exercises, and she read widely and undertook a series of five retreats.

Mary distributed several binders to the Committee that contained the curriculum and curriculum resources she had amassed and developed for a senior course on the Spiritual Exercises. Mary noted that she tried some of this curriculum with seniors during the summer, before beginning her sabbatical journey, and that doing so was critical in informing her work.

Mary's travels provided her both a time to contemplate and meet people to discuss the curriculum. She emphasized that the time to contemplate and take multiple retreats throughout the year was absolutely life-giving.

Mary concluded her presentation by emphasizing that she is eager to share her work with anyone who would like to know more.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 12/2**