

Professional Development Committee

November 6, 2007, 2:45 - 3:45 P.M.
Principal's Conference Room

Members: Steve Bluford, Charlie Dullea, Meredith Galvin, Bobby Gavin, Kate Kodros, Hillary McKinney, Paul Molinelli, Kevin Quattrin, Linda Rich, John Stiegeler, Patty Zatkan

Excused: Mary McCarty

The meeting began with a prayer. Paul reviewed the agenda for the meeting, which included discussing the in-service evaluation, providing an update on the Long Range Planning process, and a quick update on the one-to-one student laptop proposal.

In-service Evaluation — Paul reviewed the online evaluation results on the in-service. Overall, the 55 faculty and staff who responded found the in-service of marginal value (2.7 on a 1-5 scale). While some faculty found the topic valuable and some of the information useful, others were critical of the heavy use of video clips and the focus on elementary and middle school students. Respondents also had mixed feelings about the small group activity; some noted that this activity facilitated some interesting discussion, while others thought that the case studies were overly simplistic. Many people commented how much they appreciated Todd Bank's comments at the opening of the in-service.

The Committee discussed these survey results, and conversation followed that corroborated what the evaluation revealed. Suggestions were offered reconsidering the merging of Ministry Morning and In-services, that perhaps weaving them together may not always be realistic, particularly when Ministry Mornings feature a guest speaker and do not take the form of a more traditional prayer service.

Long Range Plan (LRP) Update

Paul shared with the Committee how the LRP process was proceeding, particularly as it relates to professional development. He distributed copies of the Concerns and Opportunities for both the Faculty Professional Development and the Curriculum and Instruction LRP Committees. The specific "Concerns and Opportunities" are these:

- (1) 5-to-4: "Evaluate the 5-4 faculty teaching program, faculty staffing, and the school schedule. Have the 5-4 objectives been met? What is the plan for the program in the next 6 years? What are the criteria for evaluation? Does the staffing and schedule best promote an Ignatian culture?"
- (2) Technology: "Evaluate and implement best practices in technology that assist students in achieving ESLRs."

Paul noted that for the first of three Professional Development LRP meetings (and for at least half of December's second meeting), the 5-to-4 evaluation item would be discussed. Paul explained how the discussion would be structured or framed. Charlie Dullea will provide important context SI's move to a 5-to-4 teaching load/staffing arrangement, including his thoughts about what it means to be a faculty member at SI, why 5-to-4 was proposed and ultimately adopted, and how 5-to-4 was implemented. Following this, the LRP Committee will discuss one essential question, which is "What schedule/staffing arrangement best promotes an Ignatian culture and the achievement of SI's mission, and what criteria do we use to evaluate it?" The committee will be asked to consider several proposed objectives and timelines as a possible framework for evaluation.

Discussion followed about this item, including questions about whether this LRP discussion would focus upon the bell schedule. While certainly related, the bell schedule would not be the focus of the LRP item, which deals primarily with the effectiveness of the reduced teaching load produced by the 5-to-4 transition. Charlie noted that the bell schedule per se would come under scrutiny during the upcoming focus-group phase of SOS (Stressed Out Students).

Since 5-to-4 had very specific goals, it will be evaluated according to criteria related to them. The goals included the improvement of teaching and learning through increased collaboration and more time for curriculum and instructional development (among other things), as well as the promotion of deeper more meaningful involvement in Campus Ministry and co-curricular areas of school service. It was noted that some interesting and compelling data have already been compiled, including student questionnaire and data some preliminary comparison data with peer schools.

The Committee also reviewed the other LRP items, specifically those under consideration in the Curriculum and Instruction LRP Committee. These include:

- (1) Wellness Program: "Create a comprehensive student wellness program."
- (2) Counseling Restructuring: "Evaluate the 2006-07 restructuring of the counseling department. Does the department meet their stated goals for guidance and college counseling?"
- (3) Serving All Students: "How do we ensure that all matriculants — from at-risk to learning disabled to accelerated — are fully challenged and served during their four years at SI?"

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee plans to address one of three items for each of its three meetings, beginning with the Wellness Program item.

Paul concluded by providing a quick update on the second professional development LRP item (technology), which would likely be the focus of at least part of the second LRP meeting in December. A significant focus of this discussion would necessarily center around the one-to-one student laptop proposal, which currently targets a Fall 2009 rollout to entering freshmen, the Class of 2013.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting : TBA