

Professional Development Committee Minutes

December 9, 2008, 2:50 - 3:30 P.M.
Room 430

Members: Justin Christensen, Bobby Gavin, Kate Kodros, Paul Molinelli, Steve Bluford (for Jan Mullen), Chuck Murphy, Linda Rich, Patrick Ruff, Patty Zatkan,
Absent: Don Gamble, Mary McCarty, Chad Zullinger

The meeting began with a prayer.

March In-service: Paul updated the Committee about conversations over the past month with Abram Jackson, Matt Balano, and Patrick Ruff relating to appropriate follow-up to the October In-service. One of the results of these discussions has been the recommendation that we use our March In-service to continue the conversation begun in October; namely, to use this time to address one of the unfulfilled objectives from the October In-service (practical application and strategies) *and* to provide ample space for faculty and staff to talk with one another about these topics of privilege, diversity, and racism.

Paul shared with the Committee a tentative outline for the March 5th In-service, underscoring that the structure and content are still in development.

Faculty & Staff Ministry Morning & In-service

8:00 — Continental Breakfast

8:30 — Ministry Morning (Orradre) — TBA

In-service (Title: _____ ??)

Objectives:

1. Through discussion and interactive diversity activities, engage in practical dialogue that deepens our understandings of "difference."
2. Identify strategies to address the challenges stemming from various kinds of diversity or difference (racial, gender, class, sexual orientation), both in the classroom and in our relationships with students.

9:15 — Intro/Overview (Orradre) — TBA

9:30 — Keynote (Orradre) — TBA

10:15 — Break

10:30 — Whole-Group Activity (Orradre), 4-Corners, or other — TBA

11:20 — Transition/Break

11:30 — Breakout Activity (Classrooms), facilitated scenarios, or other — TBA

12:20 — Transition/Break

12:30 — Wrap-up & Prayer — TBA

1:00 — Lunch

Paul noted that he had been in contact with Rita O'Malley about coordinating the Ministry Morning and In-service, and that no decisions had been made about how or whether to integrate these events in any explicit way. Several Committee members expressed their approval that the March In-service would follow the theme and topic of the October In-service, adding a level of continuity to how we approach our in-services. Other Committee members noted that we may not need an outside keynote speaker for the day, that many SI faculty and staff would be excellent speakers and facilitators. Another Committee member emphasized that creating space for ongoing conversations ought to be at the center of this event. Paul said that he would take these recommendations into account as efforts moved forward to plan the in-service.

Diversity Resources: Paul shared with the Committee a new Diversity Resources page on the Professional Development website (<http://www.siprep.org/prodev/diversity/index.cfm>). Matt, Abram, and Paul have

had several discussions about the content and structure of this webpage. A premium was placed upon identifying several seminal print resources that would appeal to a broad range of backgrounds, interests, and needs. Each item includes a brief annotation, while each title is linked to a book review and the author's name is linked to some biographical information.

Spring Book Club: Paul announced that a book had been selected and a tentative meeting schedule arranged for a spring semester book club on "*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*" And Other Conversations About Race, written by Beverly Tatum.

Discussion followed about appropriate dates and times to hold these meetings, and it was agreed that Tuesdays during 4th & 5th lunch might work best. Others mentioned that we should explore hosting Friday afternoon sessions as well. Discussion followed about where these gatherings should take place, and the Committee explored the relative benefits (and limitations) of hosting these meetings in the Faculty Room, the Dining Room, a classroom, or the Presidents Conference Room. Paul said that an announcement about the book club will take place next week and that he will take these and other excellent recommendations into consideration as plans move forward.

PD Funding and Travel Guidelines: Paul took a few minutes to update the Committee on recently revised and published Professional Development funding and travel guidelines (<<http://www.siprep.org/prodev/requests.cfm>>). He briefly noted that these procedures simply serve to formalize and reinforce our shared responsibility as stewards of these precious professional development resources. Both the PD request form, guidelines, and reimbursement procedures are all accessible via a several links on the Professional Development web page, including the first "Quick Links" item.

Summer Curriculum Grants: Paul provided a brief update on the 2008 Summer Curriculum Grants. In reviewing each of the following grant projects, Paul noted that each had achieved most, if not all, of their targeted and deliverable project goals:

- **Readable Calculus Book, Part II** (*K. Quattrin, et al.*) — This group successfully produced a revised version of this calculus text, including a teacher's version, a solution manual, and additional course resources.
- **A Physical Science Curriculum Review** (*A. O'Keefe, et al.*) — Despite the departure of several department members last spring, the physical science team successfully completed many of its ambitious goals, including the creation of backwards-designed curriculum frameworks for all chemistry and physics courses, as well as a set of common laboratory/scientific method rubrics.
- **Multimedia Arts 1A/1B** (*D. Gamble, et al.*) — This group produced a revised backwards-designed curriculum, including significant attention to the use of industry-standard design software that is central to the study and practice of modern multimedia design.
- **A Renewal of the Sophomore Retreat Program** (*S. Curran, et al.*) — This project has also been successfully completed and implemented. By connecting to the existing St. Anthony's Foundation experience that is part of the Religious Studies sophomore level curriculum, this newly designed retreat aims to integrate the sophomore Religious Studies curriculum with Christian Service and Ignatian spirituality.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1/27 (*Topics: March In-service, Summer Curriculum Grants '09, Sabbatical '09*)