

Professional Development Committee

November 28, 2018

Room 430

Members: Dan Baxter, Steve Bluford, Joe Bommarito, Carlos Gazulla, Helena Miller-Flieg, Paul Molinelli, Carole Nickolai, Katie O'Reilly, Patrick Ruff, Christine Wilkinson

Excused: Yolanda Medina Zevas, Tim Egan

The meeting began with a prayer.

Announcements

- [Learning & the Brain](#) (Feb. 15-17): Ten faculty will be attending this year's conference, and space still remains.
- [Teaching Fellows](#): Christine Wilkinson to share Friday, Jan. 25 (topic: developing yoga/wellness retreat for young women). Joe Bommarito will share his work later next semester (topic: increasing language students' proficiency through Free Voluntary Reading). More information (and application) about [Teaching Fellows is available here](#).
- Classrooms of the Future: Visit our current classrooms (Rooms 112, 203, 308, 322, 314, 307, 224) and consider applying to teach in one of next year's six new classrooms. Applications will be available in January.
- Accreditation update: Our self-study and action plan have been completely drafted! Thanks to everyone for helping to generate this document by participating in their Integral Groups, contributing at feedback sessions, and brainstorming action steps at October's in-service. We will gather final feedback from the community after the Christmas holiday.

Summer Curriculum Grants

The call for proposals will go out shortly, and the Committee reviewed the [Summer Curriculum Grant](#) process to consider any changes to the application criteria. Among the questions/suggestions posed:

- Suggestion to provide more clarity about meaning of "department support" for a grant project. The intention is that it should signify the department chair's approval of the proposed new course or curriculum changes, and that the project is "consistent with the needs of the department." While this should be captured within the "Purpose and Need" section of the application, this might be more explicitly stated early in the proposal.
- How is a "Level 1" any different than a Teaching Fellow stipend? —> While very similar, Fellows work is more about conducting an investigation and less about developing a "product."
- Suggestion to look at how the award-level descriptions and guidelines might be clearer.

Paul will integrate this feedback into the [Summer Curriculum Grant](#) program description and application.

February 19th PD Day

Given that our accreditation work is nearly complete, we have some extra PD time that we can use for other non-accreditation purposes. Paul proposed that we use this time on Tuesday, February 19th, to learn together and from each other. Possibilities include providing time for faculty-led sessions on Canvas and/or assessment strategies; these might be structured sessions or more free-flowing sessions like last year's EdCamp on assessment. Discussion highlights:

- Canvas can be a limited tool for assessment. There are other ways to use technology (like Google sheets) to conduct assessment. Let's not limit ourselves to assessment strategies ONLY with Canvas.
- Interested in how people are using formative assessment in Canvas (e.g., discussions)
- Also interested in learning more about how my colleagues are using other formative assessment apps (e.g., like GoFormative)
- Interested in learning more about using e-portfolios.
- Would be interested in learning more about Apple Classroom, beyond simply as a management tool.
- Interested in learning about how to develop good rubrics.
- What about a session on using Canvas for clubs?
- How we frame or present this day is important. Concerned we've already done quite a bit on assessment, some of it good, some of it not so good. Maybe we structure the day around sharing efficient strategies for teaching 5 classes?
- Agree that we should offer sessions that go beyond just assessment. Topics such as how to engage students more effectively, providing "brain breaks," cooperative learning strategies, etc.
- Yes, keep the range of topics as broad. Possible working title: "What Works: Fostering Engagement & Working Efficiently."

Paul will poll faculty in January about assessment and other teaching strategies they'd like to learn more about, and we can use that information to determine a structure for that day.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: 1/30/19