

Professional Development Committee

February 26, 2014

Room 430

Present: Kevin Asbra (for Katie Blaesing), Pedro Cafasso (for Grace Curcio), Gillian Clements, Andrew Laguna, S.J. (for Patrick Lannan), Deirdre McGovern, Dan Vollert (for Nora Miller), Paul Molinelli, Carole Nickolai, Patrick Ruff, Sandy Schwarz

Guest: Matt Balano

Excused: Grace Curcio, Rob Hickox, Yosup Joo, Nora Miller

The meeting opened with a prayer.

General PD Updates

- Learning & the Brain Conference — 13 faculty and staff attended this year's conference at the Fairmont Hotel February 13-15. Paul, Kevin, and Patrick reported briefly on a few of the sessions they attended, some of which were very good and highly relevant, others less so. Paul is hosting a Thursday lunch to debrief the conference with attendees.
- Observing & Analyzing Teaching Seminar (<http://www.siprep.org/page.cfm?p=2261>) — SI will be hosting this Research for Better Teaching course on June 4-6, open to SI faculty/staff and our colleagues at other regional high schools. The course is appropriate for administrators, department chairs, or anyone interested in learning more about classroom observations and providing useful feedback. Registration is open, and faculty should contact Paul or Carole if they're interested in this course.

Summer Grants

- Paul expects four, possibly five summer grant proposals at this time. Applications are due Monday, March 17, and he will distribute the applications by the end of that week. Committee members will be asked to review each proposal in light of the Summer Grant criteria and rubric, and should come prepared to our next meeting (March 26) to ask questions of grant applicants and deliberate the merits of each proposal.
- If an extra day is needed to consider these grant proposals, Paul proposed the following Wednesday, April 2, for this meeting.

Response to February 18th PD Day

Paul asked for feedback about the day, including responses to our opening session with John and Patrick RE work-life balance:

- Opening remarks from John and Patrick were helpful; personal anecdotes from them helped frame the challenges we face in managing this work.
- Patrick's notion of "being able to be present" offered a useful way of determining and responding to imbalance.
- Acknowledgement that it can be hard to leave this place, with some late nights and weekends.
- Concern expressed about mixed messages some faculty hear with regard to expectations, whether they're really doing enough.
- What's next? What else might be helpful to extend or continue the conversation, formally or informally?
- Perhaps this is a personal conversation best left between trusted colleagues, between mentor/mentee, or between colleague and supervisor.
- Reminder that Adult Spirituality opportunities can be a helpful way or place to find this balance.

Regarding level meeting time:

- Great to have the time to work together on curriculum.
- Some departments/levels experienced challenges interpreting and applying Carole and Paul's feedback on their written curriculum and self-assessments.
- Do we need more professional development on UbD? Is the language of backwards design causing confusion?
- Some committee members expressed appreciation for having a written curriculum and a common format for articulating, preserving, and sharing the curriculum.
- It was noted that the practice of producing a commonly formatted written curriculum is expected (in much greater detail) at most private/parochial high schools.
- Further noted that this emerged as an area of growth during our accreditation process.
- Written curriculum provides a common framework that we can build upon, critical as we execute our action plan. Also, it's portable and lasts beyond any one of us. Paul and Carole encouraged department colleagues to continue seeking clarification and guidance as we move forward.

March 13th In-service on Diversity & Inclusion

- Paul noted that the in-service agenda had been slightly revised in light of feedback from our last meeting, discussions with the Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG), and recommendations from Dr. Steven Jones. The general order of events will stay the same, with the addition of a short wrap-up after the small-group sessions.

8:00 am: Continental Breakfast (Commons)
8:30 am: Welcome and opening remarks: Patrick Ruff (Orradre)
8:45 am: Steven Jones Introduction: Matt Balano
8:50 am: Steven Jones
10:00 am: Break
10:20 am: Steven Jones
11:45 am: Lunch
12:30 pm: Breakout sessions for faculty (Classrooms)
Principal's Advisory Committee meets with Steven Jones (Choral Room)
1:45 pm: Wrap-up (Orradre)
2:00 pm: Dismiss
2:15 pm: Steven meets with Diversity & Inclusion Group to discuss strategic plan and implementation

- Some concern was raised about the Principal's Advisory Committee meeting concurrent to, and therefore separate from, the faculty small groups. Is it unhealthy for us to separate administrators from faculty in this way? Symbolism aside, wouldn't it be more helpful and enriching for all involved to include administrators in these small groups? Also, instead of meeting with PAC, wouldn't it be helpful to have Dr. Jones rotate among the small-group discussion groups?
- After considering with DIG many of these questions and some alternative scheduling scenarios (e.g., holding PAC meeting at 7:15), the order of the day was retained. Also, when consulted about this, Steven Jones strongly recommended that all community members share a common experience in the morning before breaking into groups. Dr. Jones also emphasized the importance of meeting separately with members of the Principal's Advisory Committee because of the critical relationship between their formal leadership roles and issues of diversity and inclusion.

- Matt noted that Steven's assistant might be able to join us that day and, if so, might then be available to rotate among the small groups.
- What kind of pre-lecture might we provide our colleagues prior to this day? Options include sending out some reflection questions, a short reading, or simply ask people to read Steven's bio from his excellent website (<http://www.jonesandassociatesconsulting.com>). Matt will ask Dr. Jones for his recommendation, and the Diversity and Inclusion Group will give this more thought as they complete in-service planning next week.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2014