

Professional Development Committee

February 25, 2015

Room 420

Members: Mike Thomas (for Katie Blaesing), Gillian Clements, Cindy Robertson (for Grace Curcio), Deirdre McGovern, Nora Miller, Paul Molinelli, Patrick Ruff, Sandy Schwarz

Excused: Rob Hickox, Yosup Joo, Patrick Lannan, Carole Nickolai

Announcements

- Canvas Social: Most recently took place, Friday, 2/27, in the Faculty Dining Room. About 25-30 joined the fun! The next Social is scheduled for Friday, April 17th.
- Learning & the Brain Conference: Five faculty attended this annual conference at the Fairmont Hotel on February 12-14 (Amy Harms, Maricel Hernandez, Emily Perttu, Maureen Sullivan, and Anna Maria Vaccaro). Shared notes from attended sessions can be found at <http://bit.ly/1DYRftm>.
- Diversity Lunch Sessions: The most recent gathering took place Wednesday, March 4th, where we discussed the NY Times article about efforts in private schools to promote understanding of white privilege (<http://nyti.ms/1Bm1qc8>). Future lunch gatherings will take place on Mar. 18th, Apr. 16th, and Apr. 30th. Check out the new Equity & Inclusion website for the schedule, readings, and other diversity resources (<http://www.siprep.org/page.cfm?p=9022>).
- Summer Grants: Proposals are due Monday, March 16th. The Committee will meet to review proposals and meet with applicants on Tuesday, 3/24, and/or Wednesday, 3/25.
- March In-service: Will take place Thursday, 3/12. The day will be primarily a faculty/staff workday. Department chairs are organizing the day in a way that works best for their departments. A light continental breakfast will begin at 7:45, and lunch will take place from 11:30-12:30. We'll use part of our lunchtime for some community announcements and updates.

February 13th In-service

The Committee reviewed the in-service evaluation (<http://bit.ly/1GxVv3E>). Overall, the feedback was very positive.

- Most appreciated the opportunity to choose which sessions to attend; the downside was that they couldn't attend the others. Paul and Matt will gather and post resources from each of the presenters (slides, handouts, links, etc.) on the new Equity and Inclusion site (<http://www.siprep.org/page.cfm?p=9339>).
- Many noted that the sessions they attended seemed too short or compressed; several of our outside presenters noted that they were squeezing half-day sessions into a 50-minute time frame.
- Most thought that the lunchtime table group conversations were helpful.
- The food was fantastic – kudos to Rick and the entire kitchen staff! (Patrick Ruff claims to have eaten 20 pieces of bacon.)

Moving Forward: How do we properly sustain this work? The Committee noted that there were many good suggestions from the evaluation. Some ideas discussed:

- Maybe replicate the "Summer Tuesdays" model around the topic of equity and inclusion. Folks could gather weekly to share food, ideas, resources.
- Similarly, hosting some "chew and views" around some great videos on this topic, similar to the Tim Wise "White Like Me" video we sent out before the in-service. Even if people don't come to the chew and views, they might still like to watch the videos on their own.
- Maybe consider putting out weekly or monthly email updates about equity and inclusion events or resources, similar to what Eric does with EdTech.
- We'll need to begin working on our curriculum; evaluating our curriculum through an equity and inclusion lens will be one of our Diversity Strategic Plan focus areas next year.

- We need to hear more stories and perspectives of our students to really understand whether and how we are creating an inclusive community (in reference to the second-to-last comment from the in-service evaluation). This view was underscored by the recent experiences of several students of color who expressed frustration with some culturally insensitive comments made by their classmates after John Lewis's presentation to our community.

Data & Assessment PD Focus

Paul asked the Committee to consider our next major focus area for PD, Data and Assessment. While we'll be sustaining our equity and inclusion work into next year, we need to be thinking about how to address the professional learning dimensions of this accreditation Action Plan item. (See "Data Analysis," esp. Action Steps #2 & #5, <http://bit.ly/1nHxOkk>.)

Paul asked to committee to consider a list of possible things we would do as part of moving forward with this work:

- Create Assessment/Evaluation working group or committee
- Identify appropriate outside consultants/speaker(s) to assist with this work
- Identify key readings (for working group, departments, school)
- Arrange lunchtime or after-school sessions around key assessment/evaluation topics (e.g., grading, formative/summative, program evaluation)

Discussion highlights:

- Creating a working group or committee to help with this seems like a good idea. This structure has been helpful with our work on equity and inclusion (DIG and its various working subcommittees).
- Knowing how to read and use numerical data is still very difficult for many of us; we need help with this!
- As a community, we need more conversations about data, more informal opportunities to check in with our data-savvy colleagues. This is really helpful and preferable to more formal presentations.
- Peter Imperial visited several years ago and shared some of his research on assessment and grading. That started a monthly gathering of folks who wanted to continue and extend the conversation; we read and shared ideas about formative vs. summative assessment, standards-based grading, and general grading practices.

The PDC will pick up this conversation at our May meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tuesday & Wednesday, March 24-25