

Meeting of the Focus on Teaching Committee  
September 15, 2008

Attending: Gerling, Miller, Guinee, James, Perry, Adams

Adams was elected Secretary of the committee.

Miller began with a follow-up on Faculty Development Day. She distributed the results of a faculty survey and encouraged the committee to think about incorporating some of the top results (including faculty presentations of current methods and building student research skills) into topics for Focus on Teaching workshops. In the discussion that followed, some interest was expressed in making the follow-up sessions to FDD division-specific.

The committee discussed other possible topics for Focus on Teaching workshops; these included using newspapers in education, led by a representative of the USA Today readership program. Miller has a link to a website for the program; she will make this available to the committee to review and to decide if this seems like a worthwhile presentation topic. Another possible topic is "The Reality of Global Leadership," proposed by David Humphrey. The committee discussed the need to ensure that this workshop will address issues related to teaching. Miller will get more information from Humphrey and report back.

The committee reviewed the schedule for the first-year faculty in the Master Teacher Program. Perry reported on her meeting with the group on 9/3. The committee decided to make Academic Honesty the topic of the 10/1 meeting. Student Jason Warneke will be invited; a faculty member will also be invited to talk about the Honor Commission and Adams will discuss the use of turnitin.com.

Miller informed the committee that an application has been submitted for the CUR regional workshop in Kirksville. If accepted, faculty attending the workshop will report on their experiences at a brown bag in March.

Finally, Miller noted, in another follow-up to FDD, that she has been working with Alpha Chi to get a website publicizing research and scholarship online by January.

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Adams

Minutes, Focus on Teaching Committee  
Meeting October 6, 2008

Attending: Miller, Guinee, Perry, James, Adams, Gerling

On Guinee/James motion the minutes of 9/15 were approved as submitted.

Miller followed-up on a potential workshop presented by a USA Today representative on using newspapers in the classroom. Miller noted she had sent some pdf files forwarded by the representative to members of the committee. The committee did not have strong positive feelings about offering this workshop. However, the committee agreed that Miller will forward the files to the whole faculty, and if there is interest, a workshop might be scheduled.

Miller noted that Alpha Chi is currently collecting information about student research. Perry noted that the Council of Chair minutes have become a forum for collecting information about faculty research. The committee discussed several other possible venues for publicizing this research, such as "Westminster Weekly." On a related note, the Math/Natural Sciences Division will have an upcoming meeting to discuss undergraduate research. Ed Mirielli will report back to the committee after the meeting takes place.

Miller pointed out that the committee needs two student members. Since the members of the committee did not have immediate suggestions, Miller will consult with Debbie Crouse to generate a list of names to circulate to the committee.

Following up on the recent Master Teacher Program on the Honor Commission, the committee discussed ways of ensuring that students are aware of what plagiarism is, including an online quiz that might be part of orientation. Kat Barden and Angela Gerling will work on such a quiz to forward to the committee. The committee considered the possibility of making turnitin.com available to students on the library webpage so that they can check their own work.

Miller announced that there is a Master Teacher Program on advising led by Linda Webster coming up, and the committee agreed that all faculty should be invited to attend.

The committee then discussed ways for faculty to include the Symposium on Democracy in their classes. Miller circulated a handout from Wayne Zade of a writing assignment that incorporated Symposium materials. Gerling is currently working on making the readings on ANGEL accessible to everyone; relevant books are on reserve in the library.

Previously the committee had been asked to consider Dave Humphrey's request to run a CTE workshop on leadership, and had returned the proposal to Humphrey with a request

to make it more teaching-centered. The committee saw the revised proposal, and has the same request, so it will be returned to him again for further work.

Guinne suggested that the committee sponsor some informal discussions for faculty centered around a favorite article on teaching, and the committee agreed this was a worthy idea.

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Adams