

Minutes from October 20, 2008 Focus on Teaching Committee Meeting

Present: Deb Crouse, Angela Gerling, Bill Guinee, Micah James Therese Miller, Carolyn Perry, Brad Sheppard.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected on a Guinee/Gerling motion.

Therese gave an update on several projects:

1. It was reported that the email about USA Today readership program was out.
2. Alpha Chi is still working on gathering information on student research. The goal is to post the new information on the web site in January 2009.
3. The Undergraduate Research grant was not funded.
4. Student members will be Jackie Sanders and Jake Mylio.
5. The annual Master Teacher Mentor/Mentee dinner will be November 7th from 5-7pm at the Forsythe's house, prior to the fall concert.
6. Symposium schedule should be out soon. The library staff continues to prepare brief summaries of the readings posted in Angel. A timeline for considering integrating the Symposium into the WSM was also discussed. Perhaps the critical thinking assessment could tie in with the Symposium each year. Therese reported that the new Symposium committee will be formed this fall.

The possibility of inviting Scott Lowe, or an appointed representative from the I.T. Department to join in on the committee was discussed. Everyone felt that was a good idea and Therese will check with Scott attending our meetings. Then a formal recommendation can be sent to Executive Committee.

The presentation on the Honor Commission was discussed and several ideas were explored on how to increase student awareness of the policy. Suggestions included:

- having a statement in each course syllabi,
 - having freshmen sign an acknowledgement form,
 - having WSM mentors cover the topic as part of Campus Connect,
 - offering some informational tutorials from the library web pages.
- Legal implications for signed documentation were also reviewed.

A format to encourage pedagogical discussion among the faculty on teaching effectiveness was discussed. Bill Guinee recommended we meet once a month in November and December to gauge the interest. Carolyn and Therese will work out the details for the date, which is be either Nov. 3 or 10th.

Maryellen Weimer's book on Learner Centered Teaching looks like a promising resource for the August 2009 Faculty Professional Development Day. Therese will check on details for potential cost and the availability of having Ms. Weimer visit campus to lead the activities. Angela will work with Institutional Advancement on grant possibilities to fund the project. One potential donor might be the Boylan Foundation in Mexico, MO.

Programming from next semester may be centered along the concept of "teaching tools" sessions. Therese will review the last faculty survey for high areas of interest.

Respectfully submitted, Angela Gerling