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Faculty Development minutes 01/22/2014

Faculty Development Committee

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Faculty Development Committee Minutes, January 22, 2014

Present: Siobhan Bremer (chair), William Straub, Emily Carruth, Mark Logan, Michelle Page, Adele Lawler

Beginning planning for Fall Development Day. In the rotation, this year would focus on Research/Creative Activity. Our goal is to have as much of it planned before Summer break begins as possible.

Adele mentioned that the budget should cover some food in the morning, and she will email Siobhan with further budget information. The dean suggests a focus on research in the morning, and perhaps finding a “burning topic” relating to it for the afternoon. We began brainstorming some ideas.

From previous years’ comments, people have always expressed a desire for time to talk among themselves on the various topics. Emily mentioned a Silent Meeting format in which people in a group get sticky notes, write their thoughts on a topic, put them all together and silently group them by common themes, finally discussing the results. The idea of multiple group breakout sessions could work well with different disciplines’ approach to creative/research activity.

There was anecdotal feedback from first time faculty wishing there might be a track for new faculty members, a sort of “How to work UMM 101.”

Michelle commented that ideally we should be thinking about a faculty development *system* with this day as only one part. One day isn’t enough to serve all the needs. When there was a Faculty Development Center, there were new faculty seminars scattered through the year. The problems are limited resources and limited responses to calls for ideas. Siobhan thinks that when Gordon was chair, Heather Peters did research to see if people would want to bring back the Faculty Development Center, and thinks people said we didn’t need it/there weren’t sufficient resources.

William mentioned, thinking of “burning topics”, a report on technology access in instruction dealing with serving students with disabilities. Michelle brought up Universal Design, a way of organizing instruction, benefiting all students. There are resources for this in the Twin Cities. If we move away from following the rotation of topics this could be an idea.

Other ideas: How to make an effective sabbatical. University wide curriculum development.

We read various comments responding to last year’s development day. There was a comment on needing more budget and responsibility in the Dean’s office to run this kind of event and bring in external speakers. Informal discussions scored high, as did lunch, then the session on international students in the classroom, followed by teaching today’s students.

Siobhan will send a campus email that asks for topics that faculty would like to see. If we continue the rotation, the focus will be on research, but we are open to topics of interest. William suggests a Doodle poll: it allows both specific responses and open-ended responses.

We will not meet next week. For the next time, we should jot down some questions.

Minutes submitted, Mark Logan.