

Summary Notes

August 21, 2006

- I. Welcome to a new era for Staff Development.
Is it possible to have a **whole year's conversation about reading?**
- Most people in the room were turned on by the film we had just seen minutes earlier, and this wove its way into the room.
- We need to establish a meeting time for this committee, **so please email Rosie with your schedule. I can meet MW afternoons, 3 – 5ish**, but the rest of my week is packed with classes. If this committee decides to meet at other times, the first order of business will be to elect a chair.
- II. **SUMMARY NOTES FROM AUGUST 17**
Discussion as to the charge of this committee: ideas were flowing all over the room. Lots of energy, lots of optimism...we'll see if any of this carries over into the term.
1. Need for connection as a community – “Boost Campus Life”
 - a. Possibly seeing/going to events here such as athletics, concerts, theater, films; these tap the rich resources of college life.
 - b. Activities that bring people together, out of “isolation.”
 2. Need for staff development to have ongoing dialogue or training for specific topics, rather than “one shot deals.”
 - a. i.e., exercises and meetings that explore reading across the curriculum.
 - b. Support each others' teaching and learning.
 - c. Improve focus for whole college.
 - d. Implement/sustain productive conversations about learning.
 - e. FIGs (Faculty Inquiry Groups) to choose and explore specific pedagogical issues.
 3. Need for classified staff to be integral part of activities.
 4. Need for getting student input and/or participation.
 5. Need for more satisfying convocation/flex day activities.
 - a. This committee is in charge of February and next August.
- III. **PRACTICAL ITEMS**
1. Dennis Chowenhill will oversee the New Faculty Learning Community.
 2. Rosie Mogle will help with the paperwork of this committee.

3. Rachel LePell (that's me) (perhaps foolishly) volunteered to chair this group, at least until the next meeting time, which has yet not been established because of the time conflicts (please see above).
4. We have a budget of roughly 15 – 20 thousand dollars.
5. Marcia Corcoran is the administrative rep.
6. Dr. C wants us to focus on SLOs and “have a plan.” I told him that we might want to explore reading this year and this would yield some goodies for SLOs. He nodded.
7. Next meeting: TBA

IV. THOUGHTS

I sense that having a focus on reading for the whole year feels pretty good, lots of nodding heads and breathing. Not to worry, lots of other things can happen too (i.e. book group, guest speakers, conferences, etc. This is focus, not single-mindedness.

Next meeting September 14, 2007.

Notes by R. LePell