



# Staff Development "Developments"

May 8, 2008

## Giving everyone a chance to grow

*(this document is both a newsletter and summary minutes)*

- I. **Rosie Mogle** was not present, but she did announce to us that SD is out of funds for the year.
- II. **Steve Woodhams** is working on submitting a summary of our flex day responses to the Hotsheet before the end of the year.
- III. **Rachel LePell** reported that we will be using a new **action tracking form** developed by College Council, and that this will be consistent throughout the governance committees and serve two purposes:
  1. Ease in finding actions from past committees
  2. Clarity for decisions that may need college council approval and/or input.**Rachel** also reported that she is represented Staff Development at College Council and does not feel the need to consult with the membership of SD on "every issue."
- IV. **Convocation thoughts: Bill Johnson** suggested we look at disruptive and possibly dangerous student behavior—and **Arlene DeLeon** echoed this idea, reporting that she had talked with **John Parente** about what he perceived as an increase in possible "mental heath" issues among our students and how this contributes to difficult classroom issues. **Bill** used the term "angry students" and this struck a chord among us. **Bill** also suggested that perhaps we all need a review of Administrative responsibilities in this issue, and **Marcia Corcoran** reminded us that she has dealt with several cases with disruptive students and that she has some authority on the process, but that a review with administration might prove helpful to all. **Bill** also suggested looking at some other "negative issues" such as plagiarism as well. We all know that some issues are "negative" but sometimes we need to talk and explore them nonetheless.

We concurred that SD has no "burning agenda" to bring to Celia on the 15<sup>th</sup>, but that SD will be looking to follow up the work in August with the work on Flex day in October. I will keep all of SD informed about the 15<sup>th</sup> and see what our charge might be, if any. One thing always seems true: we want the chance to talk to each other about substantive professional issues, both inside the classroom and outside. Nothing like "good talk" to stimulate and reinforce our connections with each other. There is a constant cry/need/issue about whether we stay together or separate during flex day and convocation week – "we" refers here to Classified staff/Admin/Faculty....and our job in SD is to navigate

these waters carefully and constructively, knowing full well that we will never please everyone...

**V. Next Year:**

We elected **Rachel LePell** (that's me again folks) as chair of SD. However, this may change, because I'm not absolutely sure this is the right place for me next year. Will keep you all posted, of course.

We talked at length about the role of SD in relationship to the following entities:

The Learning Connection/Center for Teaching and Learning  
IPBC  
Tech training

I vowed to look harder for diverse membership – and steady participation, especially from the sciences and math--and to try to keep the membership alive and vibrant.

**Arlene** suggested that we start the year with the salient question: What will it do to *keep* you on the committee for the year? Great idea!! Let's start with that next year, eh?

Speaking of next year:

**Marcia** brought up the issue of having SD be more aligned with the work in Basic Skills And the center for Teaching and Learning, building 100, etc...

These are sticky and tricky waters, from my point of view....even though the SD committee supports most of the new training and pedagogy arising from our colleagues on these missions...it's important that we do not become an "arm" of the Language Arts division (And **Marcia** is very sensitive to this as well) and/or an "arm" of the current administration's flavor of the month pedagogical dance. Nor, of course, do we want to be adversarial to these larger waves of innovation. We just don't want to be swept up by these waves and have no mission or integrity of our own...Ahhh...balance that one for fun.

**Barbara Worthington** reminded us that it was "fun" to get involved with the Reading follow up and then something playful and alluring on the committee. It's agreed that we must do more than just approve conference requests...that's true. I reminded the committee that to enact a kind of "thematic agenda" requires a lot of muscle and that sometimes I didn't have the muscle to do it as the semester moved into its latter days. (sigh)

**Sore spot:** TTIP money....no answers, mixed messages. We agreed that communication fell down and that SD must be kept informed if the managers want to "sweep" our funds from any pots. This was a kind of debacle that we never want to see happen again.

***Core members: Marcia Corcoran, Arlene DeLeon, Tammeil Gilkerson, Carmen Johnston, Angie Magallon, Gloria Meads, Rosie Mogle, Steve Piatetsky, Nicole Scoles, Steve Woodhams, Barbara Worthington, and Rachel LePell (Chair).***

**VI.** Some new thoughts about next year:

Is there a way we can encourage faculty and staff to attend and participate more in college life, both in the daytime activities and night time activities so as to contribute to culture of liveliness in some way? This is not just going to conferences and supporting the pedagogy in Basic Skills...but something contributing to our zeitgeist here...

I want to create a kind of card that gets “punched” for going to games, concerts, events, and when you get to “10” you are rewarded in some way...? Just food for thought.

Respectfully submitted by yours truly...Rachel LePell

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