

UAF Faculty Development, Assessment and Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2013

I. Franz Meyer called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

II. Roll call:

Present: Stephen Brown, Mike Castellini, Cindy Fabbri, David Fazzino, Andrea Ferrante, Kelly Houlton, Eric Madsen, Trina Mamoon, Franz Meyer, Joy Morrison
Excused: Izetta Chambers, Amy Vinlove

III. Report from Joy

Joy called in from the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) conference in Anchorage where their “K-21” focus is on all the newest uses for technology for teaching, in the classroom as well as for distance education. She reported that although the focus is primarily on K-12 teachers there are some UA faculty members and CDE staff present. UAF’s own CDE is presenting numerous sessions.

The faculty development for February (focus is on SFOS) is finishing up this Thursday with a presentation on best practices for online learning. Joy noted her appreciation for Mike’s active role in promoting and encouraging his faculty to attend OFD’s offered sessions. Mike noted that his estimate of SFOS faculty attendance is between 12 – 15% and asked how that compared to Joy’s statistics. Joy reported that compared to some other colleges, this was an impressive amount. She is collecting data on how this experiment of bringing faculty development straight to each college for a month is working. She will share her results with the committee so we can help determine if this approach is successful enough to continue next year. Franz asked how the email reminders were handled for SFOS this month. Joy explained that she and Mike shared the process since she must be sensitive regarding the number of emails the OFD sends out. Joy sends emails campus-wide whereas Mike was very active in sending out reminder to his faculty encouraging them to attend. Having support from college deans with regards to emailing faculty has been very helpful. Mike noted that SFOS is working on a survey to determine what would be a reasonable number of emails.

Planning for the group of faculty members traveling to the Lilly West conference is going well. The conference is March 14 – 17th in Pomona, CA. Joy also informed us that Linda Hapsmith of the Academic Advising Center has 50 one-way railroad tickets for faculty and advisors to travel to a big regional advising conference being held in Anchorage in early May. Linda will also be awarding \$750 travel grants for this conference to 25 faculty and/or advisors.

Joy pointed out that the department chair training session has been postponed to Thursday, April 11 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm due to medical issues for presenter Walt Gmelch. The session is intended for newer department chairs, or those considering

becoming department chairs, and focuses on managing challenging personalities in a leadership position. The session is titled “Mending the Cracks in the Ivory Tower”.

IV. Progress on analysis of electronic student evaluation options for UAF

Franz noted that the demos are continuing with good attendance from our committee and OIT. Sally Scrip from the Provost’s Office has also attended most of the demos, and we had one student attend a demo. The demos are pretty consistent but we have learned some interesting differences in the last week or so: some vendors offer a lot more statistical analysis and reporting capabilities, and some vendors offer a complete hybrid of electronic and paper-and-pencil evaluations simultaneously. The next demo is scheduled for this Friday, with the last demo slated for March 29.

The core committee members who have been attending each demo (Franz, Eric, Andrea, Kelly) are discussing how we will evaluate the process and write a recommendation/report for Faculty Senate. Eric has proposed that the core group work on the report rather than having the whole FDAI committee involved. We will share the report with the committee when it is finished. Eric reminded us that this is just the first step of a very long process, and that the Provost is hoping to gain insight into the campus climate regarding the feasibility of using electronic course evaluations at UAF.

Franz and Eric will be meeting with the Faculty Senate President and President-elect to discuss their expectations regarding the information in our report and what the timeline should be.

We once again discussed the issue of low response rates with electronic evaluations. The core group has learned about strategies that other institutions are using (usually from recommendations from their respective vendors) to increase response rates. These include making the evaluation process as visible as possible (i.e. getting university Presidents, Chancellors, Provosts, Deans, faculty, and advisors to talk about it with students at every opportunity), multiple email reminders for students who have not yet completed their evaluations, offering incentives (i.e. early access to grades, free iPads, coupons, etc.), explaining to your students why it is important (i.e. how you have made changes to the structure of your courses based on students’ responses), and sharing results with students in an easy-to-find way. We agreed that some of the “side issues” we have been considering should definitely be part of our report to Faculty Senate.

V. Research speed dating event discussion: Shall we attempt it or not?

After a short discussion in which we determined the name should be changed so as not to include the “speed dating” descriptor, the committee agreed that this will be a good idea to pursue. While attendance might be lower for the first event, it has the potential to grow in the future. Trina mentioned that getting deans involved will be key in spreading the word to their research faculty to get them involved. Joy has set up the details with Gary Bender of OIT for May 2 at lunch time in Bunnell 319. The one-hour session will have computers set up with Skype to facilitate 5-minute connections between researchers to

quickly explain their research and discover people they may collaborate with. Face-to-face meetings will also occur with researchers who are able to come in person. Joy has asked us to think about a new title that would better express the intent of the session.

VI. Other Business: Discussion on potential subscription to Faculty Development Resource “Magna Commons”

Joy explained that a one-year subscription allows all faculty access to Magna Commons’ archive of seminars and presentations. There are about 150 available to choose from with each lasting 60 to 90 minutes. She pointed out that if we started the subscription now, faculty could take advantage of the offerings over this summer. She also notes that there is money available for the subscription now whereas it may disappear by fall. Mike suggested that it could be promoted during the remainder of the OFD’s monthly faculty development presentations. Andrea asked if it was possible to try a free sample, and David noted that there is a 7-day trial offer on Magna Commons’ website. Joy also stated that she has bought some of Magna Pubs’ DVDs that faculty are welcome to check out. (Magna Commons is the online access group.)

VII. Upcoming events:

Faculty Senate Meeting: Monday, March 4, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in Wood Center

VIII. Next FDAI Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

IX. Adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Houlton.