

Minutes for Faculty Development Committee (FDC)  
October 19, 2015 (3:30 pm, Miller Hall 2212)

Members present: D. Boldt, J. Carlisle, M. Fujita, L. Howe, M. Kassis, M. Mitra, C. Sicignano, J. Whisenhunt  
Guests present: Henry Zot

- 1) D. Boldt welcomed all present. The minutes of the September 3, 2015 meeting were approved.
- 2) D. Boldt discussed the request of Denise Overfield to have the FDC provide input on the FRG proposal process and in reviewing FRG requests for 2016-17 funding. Megumi Fujita has agreed to help out with this. In addition, Tami Ogletree has provided comments on the current FRG application form.
- 3) D. Boldt will be working with Lara Willox on setting a date in which she will be able to make a brief presentation to the FDC on her experience in submitting an online tenure and promotion dossier.
- 4) H. Zot discussed his proposal (which he would like to get included in the Faculty Handbook) on defining scholarship. He provided a brief written summary of his proposal. Specifically, he proposed that "Scholarship is defined as those professional development and teaching and learning endeavors that are disseminated to an external audience." Dr. Zot felt that such external endeavors help raise the profile of West Georgia. This proposal prompted a vigorous discussion about what defines scholarship. Various questions were raised including "Why is such a definition needed?" "Is the definition too limiting?" or Should a definition of scholarship be more appropriately addressed at the college level? No vote was made on this proposal. This topic will be further discussed at the next meeting of the FDC.
- 5) Mary Kassis briefly discussed the progress being made in the review/revision of the sections of handbook related to teaching evaluations. Dr. Kassis solicited feedback from the committee on the departmental use of the approved student evaluation of teaching form. For example, is it ok for departments to opt out of using this form and to use an alternative teaching evaluation instrument in its place? Other issues discussed included the use of teaching evaluations in online courses, the proper administration of the evaluation forms, the Evaluation by Department Chair Form (p. 27 of the Faculty Handbook), and the timing of the administration of the student evaluations of teaching instrument.
- 6) David Boldt, Charles Sicignano and Louis Howe are looking into updating and revising the grievance policy. Thus far, they have been reviewing grievance policies at other USG universities. They intend to forward any recommended changes to the entire FDC in the spring.
- 7) Alison Umminger, Mautusi Mitra and Lisa Connell are looking at possible revisions/updates of the tenure and promotion policies. M. Mitra updated the FDC on the subcommittee's progress. They are reviewing the entire T&P process and have all been making comments on a shared google drive file. They will also be including a revision which updates UWG policy to allow for credit of years toward promotion (as is now allowed for tenure). The continued inclusion of the CV section in handbook was also discussed. Revisions of the T&P section of the handbook will be the main focus of the next meeting of the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.