

# Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes November 16, 2007

## **Members Present:**

Cindy Akers, Mario Beruvides, Dominick Casadonte, Gary Elbow, Jerry Hudson, William Lan, Bob McDonald, John White

## **Members Not Present:**

Susan Fortney, Debbie Laverie, David Roach, Gwen Sorell, Roman Taraban, William Westney

## **Approval of Minutes September 27, 2007:**

## **Announcements:**

\*Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award applications are due in the Office of the Provost February 1, 2008.

\*New Members of the DETA Selection Committee: Ag-Steve Frazee; BA-Scott Hein; Education-Robin Lock; HS-Steve Harris.

## **Update from William Lan (Chair of Subcommittee of “Advocating Teaching Excellence at Texas Tech University”):**

Dr. Lan distributed copies of the minutes of the October 19, 2007 meeting. Members in attendance were: Cindy Akers, Dominick Casadonte, Donna Davis, William Lan, and Debbie Laverie. The minutes read:

“The committee is concerned for inactivity of some members of the Teaching Academy and recommends the Teaching Academy create opportunities for members’ participation. Following activities were mentioned at the meeting for members of the Teaching Academy to be involved:

- Survey members of the Teaching Academy for ideas of participation
- Publishing series of white-papers on issues of teaching
- Organize members who share interest in various aspects of teaching into Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to discuss how to advocate teaching excellence
- Creating mentoring relationship between members of the Teaching Academy and instructors who experience difficulties in teaching
- Form Expert Groups on specific topics to provide consulting service to faculty (“What area are you confident in teaching that you can help others?”)
- Post templates of syllabus reflecting “the best practice” on the Teaching Academy website for people to adopt
- Short scripts posted online to share good teaching experience
- Present or represent the Teaching Academy pin or plaque in front of the class of students to recognize excellence in teaching
- Sending faculty members representing the Teaching Academy to regional or state conference
- Create searchable database of members’ expertise in teaching
- Designate Master Teachers and reward them with stipend

- Identify universities and colleges with reputation on excellence in teaching (e.g., Texas A&M University, New Mexico University, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, etc.) and learn how excellence in teaching is advocated
- More opportunities for members of the Teaching Academy getting together
- Self-nomination of members of the Teaching Academy for the Executive Council and other committees of the Teaching Academy for active involvement if elected.”

The Executive Council discussed the suggestions and thought *Academus* should be included. Also include a 5 point scale in the survey: A. Is this a good idea? B. Would you, as a member, participate? C. Special interest groups (provide space for write-ins).

### **Replacement of Gwen Sorell:**

Gwen Sorell has taken a leave of absence from the Executive Council due to personal reasons. The Executive Council agreed to ask Lynn Huffman to be the temporary replacement as the representative for the College of Human Sciences, as she has previously served on this committee.

### **Nameplates:**

The Executive Council examined a prototype nameplate recommended for each Teaching Academy member. The nameplates would be displayed outside each member’s office doorway. Everyone was extremely pleased with the sample nameplate, and agreed that we should proceed with asking the Office of the Provost to take this suggestion to the Deans’ Council. If the Deans are in favor of the nameplates, they would then take the recommendation to the department chairs where funding would be discussed.

### **Executive Council Chair-elect:**

Cindy Akers will send out an email to all Executive Council members in order to allow them to express interest in serving in this role, or to nominate another council member.

### **Other business:**

\*Burns Conference Speaker: The Executive Council is soliciting suggestions for a speaker next fall.

\**Academus* journal update: A request for funding has been submitted. The Faculty Incentive Grant obligation pertaining to the journal has been fulfilled – a presentation has been done and a report has been submitted. It has been suggested that past Burns conference speakers submit a paper to be included in the journal. *Academus* wants to be a resource center, not just a journal. They need a webpage and a media server. Dominick suggested checking with Fred Hartmeister, Dean of the Graduate School, for teaching assistants to help with the journal.

### **Next Meeting:**

Friday, January 18, 2008 TLTC room 152, 12:00 Noon.

### **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina