

# Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes August 29, 2008

## **Members Present:**

Cindy Akers, Jim Brink, William Lan, Audra Morse, David Roach, Nancy Soonpaa, Roman Taraban, Peter Westfall, William Westney

## **Members Not Present:**

Jerry Hudson, Debbie Laverie, Gwen Sorell

## **Approval of minutes:**

Minutes were distributed and approved.

## **Welcome and Introduction:**

Roman welcomed our new Teaching Academy Executive Council members: Jim Brink (Honors), Audra Morse (Engineering), and Peter Westfall (Business). Nancy Soonpaa will be substituting for Susan Fortney (Law) this fall. Professor Fortney is teaching at Boston University during the fall semester.

## **Announcements:**

\*Teaching Academy applications are now online. Roman expressed his gratitude to Debbie Laverie and David Rodriguez of the TLTC for this highly anticipated transition from paper to an all electronic version.

\***New Member Application Deadline: Friday, September 05, 2008.**

\*Selection Committee will meet the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. Dominick Casadonte will chair the committee.

\*New Member Induction Ceremony

-Thursday, October 2, 2008, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Escondido Ballroom (SUB basement).

-General Business Meeting: showcase Work Groups report regarding the survey on interest groups. We hope to generate interest in various activities. Email possible agenda items to Roman Taraban.

\* John M. Burns Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning will be held at the TLTC on Friday, October 3, 2008. Dr. Susie Whittington will be our plenary speaker. The noon hour is still available for an additional speaker if anyone has a suggestion.

\*Dr. Melora Sundt will be the guest speaker at the TLTC from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Committee members were encouraged to attend this special lunch presentation by Dr. Sundt. We hope to provide a transcript of her presentation.

\*TLTC programs have been set for the semester: [www.tlhc.ttu.edu](http://www.tlhc.ttu.edu).

## **Jumpstart report – Dr. Karen Meaney, Assoc Director, TLTC:**

Dr. Karen Meaney reported on the 2008 Jumpstart Program. The numbers continue to grow, and everyone is very encouraged by the percentage of new faculty that attended the various sessions. Other locations will be considered for the opening sessions, which are usually the most heavily attended of the entire program. The Teaching Academy may be able to participate in more than one session next year due to the success of this program. Jim Brink suggested faculty give 20 minute (short) “examples” of teaching, regardless of topic. This could be done at Jumpstart or other workshops throughout the year. We need to remind everyone that teaching is not remedial or uniform! We need to show off different teaching styles.

## **Work Groups Report:**

William Lan will give the committee a report next month on the Teaching Academy survey on interest groups from last spring.

## **Journal Update:**

Roman hopes to have an update from Bob McDonald or Mario Beruvides at the next meeting.

## **Other business:**

\*Allowable number of faculty members in Teaching Academy: past minutes state that no more than 20% of fulltime faculty can belong to the Teaching Academy. We are currently at 18% (221 Teaching Academy members out of 1210 fulltime faculty). Roman will let Dominick Casadonte know this percentage to pass along to the New Membership Selection Committee. Concerning the 20% number, the committee discussed the following: could we use *approximately* 20% instead of a fixed number; could we create an Emeritus category? We will go through the membership list and develop a database of members the Emeritus category would include.

\*University comparisons on Teaching Academy applications: **Courses Taught in the Last Three Years (Include up to 2 recent syllabi and summary evaluations of past three years of teaching evaluations with enrollment numbers and department, college and university comparisons combine into 1 pdf document.)** It was moved, seconded and approved to remove university comparisons from the new member application forms. “Those numbers are not readily accessible and give limited information.”

\*Teaching Videos: the committee would like to see TTU make lectures available through online video.

\*Grade Inflation: Roman received a memo from a concerned faculty member regarding grade inflation. Tina will scan and email the memo to the Executive Council for review to see if this is something that should be considered by the Executive Committee at a future meeting.

\*Other: Much appreciation was expressed for Tina Sansom’s contribution to the smooth functioning of the Executive Committee and Teaching Academy.

**Next meeting:** Friday, September 26, 2008 12:00 noon

## **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted by Tina Sansom