

FDAI Meeting Notes - 9/1/16

11a-Noon (Bunnell 222)

Attending: Franz Meyer, Mingchu Zhang, Chris Lott, Joy Morrison, Andrea Ferrante, Sarah Stanley, Steve Hunt, Mike Castellini, Brian Himmelbloom

Absent: Rob Rember, Bernie Coakley, Candi Dierenfeld, Cindy Fabbri, Gerri Brightwell

Intros

Committee Mission

Franz: given fiscal situation, the importance of this committee is greater than ever to serve as lobbyists/advocates for faculty development. OoFD has zero budget right now. eLearning brought in two years ago, provides faculty development as well, beyond “just” technology.

The ECAI committee piloted and then rolled out the electronic course evaluation system. ECAI isn't an advocacy group but trying to make the experience as productive and fruitful as possible. Ongoing activity.

Faculty mentoring analysis and improvement is ongoing, critical now given budget constraints. Following up on survey and discussions from last year.

This committee might be called on to respond to questions resulting from ongoing changes at UA/UAF (single accreditation, strategic pathways, etc).

Note: committee mission from Faculty Senate bylaws (<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/about/faculty-senate-constituti/>)

“The Faculty Development, Assessment, and Improvement (FDAI) Committee facilitates faculty development relative to all components of faculty professional activities including teaching, research, and service to the university, the professional community, and the public. FDAI promotes excellence in faculty teaching through evaluating the status of faculty development and assessment, facilitating intellectual activity and interaction among faculty, promoting fair and relevant faculty evaluation systems, and developing and/or piloting professional development initiatives that recognize and promote good practice in teaching

and research.

The FDAI consists of the Chair, and up to 14 other voting members. The membership of the FDAI must include faculty from both rural and Fairbanks campuses and can include faculty who are senators and non-senators. In addition to its regular members, the FDAI includes non-voting ex-officio members. These include a mandatory ex-officio representative from the Office of Faculty Development (to be selected by the Provost), a member from UAF eLearning, as well as a member of UAF's list of deans. Other non-voting ex-officio members may be invited by the committee."

Election of chair, co-chair and note-taker

- Notetaker: **Chris Lott** volunteered. All vote yes.
- Chair: Steve Hunt moves to elect **Franz Meyer** for 2016/2017. All in favor.
- Co-Chair: Sarah Stanley moves to elect **Steve Hunt**. All in favor.

ECAI News

Last year's activities:

- Moved from pilot to full implementation of eXplorance BLUE. Implemented add-on question banks and more reporting.
- Improved return rates by nearly 5% from Fall 15 (41%) to Spring 16 (46.5%) without added incentives; paper surveys were 62-64%.
- Implemented promotional campaign (<http://uaf.edu/inspire-us/>) to provide information to both students and faculty about the system.

Over summer there have been concerns voiced by faculty to the Provost, focusing on two areas: unhappiness with Blue specifically and/or dissatisfaction with the very act of having students evaluate teaching. Andrea responded minimally to them as needed without extending conversation non-productively. Franz will share the email chains with the ECAI committee at its first meeting.

Franz: changing the system has prompted needed conversations about student evaluations and their utility. Question for ECAI committee is how/if to respond to those conversations. ECAI committee is shifting from implementation to continued improvement of return rates, marketing and feedback.

Brian: some faculty, particularly junior faculty, were concerned about low return rates. What are possibilities to improve: expanded time, incentives, swag? Concerns about where Provost is in terms of interpreting the new instrument's results and lowered response rates.

Candi: is taking concerns about student evaluations being used as criteria for promotion and tenure to the union negotiating table.

Franz: particular concern re: minimum numbers and thresholds being used when the instrument is so new and no baselines are established. Encourages more participation on the ECAI committee, including new/junior faculty.

Andrea notes: Incentives have been discussed multiple times, but conclusion is this comes down to instructor-student relationship, students seeing that their opinion matters and being able to show/demonstrate real changes coming from their pov. Re: promotion and tenure, ECAI provided information to the unit criteria committee re: changes from new system and time needed to determine baselines and trends over time. Also, P&T files should include three evaluations: student, self and peer, not just student...don't rely only on student evaluations.

Office for Faculty Development Report (Joy)

Informed of zero budget two weeks ago, which means---among other things---no more Faculty Learning Communities.

Held new faculty orientation for 13 attendees.

Did fundraising to bring Bob Lucas to UAF despite loss of budget.

Focus this year: mentoring. Joy will be attending an Institute.

Produced new "Giving and Getting Career Advice" guide for faculty.

Working with UAA to identify low/no-cost collaboration opportunities.

Working with Grants and Contracts Administration to do more training for grant writing, which will be emphasized more.

Faculty mentoring survey: has received returns from 20 faculty and 13 deans and directors. Would like 2-3 people from FDAI to work together to interpret results. **Sarah Stanley** and **Steve Hunt** volunteer.

Sarah: statement about micro-affirmations. Would like to consider how we could collect such

micro-affirmations that are otherwise ephemera (in addition to formal mentoring and such).

Joy will be screening a bullying video from UAA (which she successfully aired last Spring).

Will be hosting luncheon, etc. for new faculty (info from Joy)

No more Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) were planned by Joy due to funding cuts to budget needed to sustain them. Could send out a call to reconstitute FLCs in Spring, despite lack of funding.

Franz: committee can author letter regarding importance of OfFD and FLCs

Sarah: interested in how to foreground the value of faculty development activities, including FLCs, providing extended value and incentive.

eLearning Report

- Upcoming events (attached) – see all at <http://iteachu.uaf.edu/events/>
- Quality Matters -- see more at <http://qm.uaf.edu/>
- CITE Fellows

FDAI Meeting Scheduling

Franz will send out a (long) Doodle poll to determine meeting times for the rest of the semester.

Upcoming Events

Next Faculty Senate meeting: 9/12/16 – includes open comments/questions time

Next FDAI meeting: early October subject to polling noted above.

Meeting Notes Approval

Please add your name here when you've made edits and approve of these minutes. Document will be closed one week before next meeting.

- Chris Lott