UAF Faculty Development, Assessment and Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2015

I. Kelly Houlton called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

II. Roll call

Present: Bill Barnes, Diana DiStefano, Andrea Ferrante, Mark Herrmann, Brian
Himelbloom, Kelly Houlton, Duff Johnston, Chris Lott, Trina Mamoon, Joy Morrison,
Channon Price, Paul Reichardt (visiting), Leslie Shallcross, Amy Vinlove
Excused: Franz Meyer
Absent: Cindy Fabbri

III. Report by UAF eLearning & Distance Education and the Office of Faculty
Development

Chris reported that eLearning & Distance will be offering an online presentation on
February 12 from 1 – 2 pm about "Making the World Your Lab". Their third Thursday
presentation with OIT for February is on Presence and Participation in Online
Classrooms (February 19 from noon – 1 pm). Chris also reminded us that applications are
open for the iTeach 4-day workshops March 6, 9, 11 and 13. Applications can be found at
http://iteach.uaf.edu/about/

Joy reported that she would like to take a few new faculty members to the Lilly West
conference in California this spring. She also said she would like to take a member from
the FDAI committee to the POD conference next fall in San Francisco. Joy informed us
that she met with several Faculty Development specialists while she was in South Africa
and will invite some of them to the POD conference as well.

IV. News on Electronic Course Assessment Implementation Committee (ECAI)

Andrea reported that the ECAI committee has been developing the core questions for this
spring's pilot of the electronic course evaluations as well as working with PAIR on
identifying a student cohort (aiming for 10% of students with a good cross section of
classes, colleges and delivery methods). This is proving to be tricky because of the large
amount of work PAIR is doing right now. He informed us that the committee is now
working on about four open-comment questions. He and Sally Skrip met via phone with a
representative from eXplorance Blue last Friday and set up the milestones for the next
few months in order to have the evaluations made available to students by April 20. Next
week will be a "kick-off" meeting with eXplorance Blue to learn more about what
information they will need from Banner and Blackboard. Last week Andrea and CP
attended the ASUAF meeting to get some student feedback on the core questions as they
stand now. The core questions will be posted on the Faculty Senate web page for a week
to gather faculty feedback.

V. Discussion with Dr. Paul Reichardt on the State of Faculty Development at UAF

We asked Dr. Reichardt for his input and perspective on creating a stronger faculty development culture on campus. He shared the following things to consider/keep in mind: 1) this is a challenge at other institutions as well; 2) one of the best and most popular opportunities was to offer advice via senior faculty members on promotion and tenure; 3) activities that are requested by faculty will give us presentations that will be attended and sends a clear message that the OFD is here for faculty; 4) identify two or three institutional priorities: where is UAF not living up to its potential (IAS results?); 5) do not dwell entirely on lack of attendance – if what you are delivering is providing a real benefit for a few faculty members then that is a good thing; 6) find out answers to these questions: Where are faculty in their instructional development? What do faculty really think about outcomes assessment? What comes out of it that is of value? There must be some sort of interest or perceived need from faculty for "Faculty Development" to succeed; 7) keep in mind there are as many challenges facing research faculty as there are for teaching faculty; 8) have attendees of presentations/workshops outside of UAF share the information that was covered with their fellow UAF faculty; 9) if the Tuesday 1 – 2 pm time slot is a problem, make use of what is already scheduled, such as the GI weekly seminar series, CLA faculty meeting times, meeting with Deans and Directors, etc.; 10) consider applying a filter to the survey results Joy has already collected – maybe we already have the information we need; and 11) develop an online tutorial that faculty can access on their own time.

During our discussion, several points were brought up. Paul shared a handout with us listing examples of faculty development activities at three universities. These included matching funds for travel, scholarship, equipment, etc. by partnering with other agencies; a listing of whom to call for help with things like instructional design, devising essay questions, etc.; interdisciplinary mentoring; an Annual Assessment Academy to examine practices and impacts of outcomes-based assessment of student learning; and co-sponsored grant-writing workshops. While the three universities were anonymous, Paul offered to identify them to Joy if any of these particular points were of interest.

Some of the challenges that were discussed were finding meeting days and times that work for most faculty, making sure that awareness of any faculty development opportunities – whether they are offered through the OFD, OIT or eLearning and Distance Education – is consistently and cohesively made available to faculty, limited capacity for in-depth workshops/presentations, and funding shortfalls. Paul explained that when he initially set up the Office of Faculty Development he had some money to do so and wanted a better way of addressing faculty needs than just reacting to requests. He also noted that since there was a lack of interest on campus in high-quality teaching, he wanted to encourage very talented research-oriented faculty to be able to teach their classes more effectively. He suggested (as noted above) to identify two or three areas that UAF needs to work on and let that drive our approach instead of relying on a push from the Provost or Chancellor. Mark noted that a lot of professional development happens informally between colleagues. CP brought up the issue that since so many "specialists" are available these days it seems that faculty are less involved with being good

"generalists". He believes that this changes the need for faculty development. But Paul opined that maybe it just changes the *focus* of faculty development.

We were all very grateful for Dr. Reichardt sharing his wisdom and suggestions with our committee. He gave us a lot to consider and offered the encouragement that maybe it is not as bad as it seems.

VI. Other Business
      a. Scheduling future FDAI meetings – We will ask if Franz will send out a Doodle Poll so we can accommodate as many members as possible.

VII. Upcoming Events

      a. Next FDAI meeting: TBD
      b. Next Administrative Committee meeting: 2-20-15
      c. Next Faculty Senate meeting: 2-2-15

VIII. Adjourned at 5:13 pm (Respectfully submitted by Kelly Houlton.)