

UAF Faculty Development, Assessment and Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2015

I. Franz Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

II. Roll call

Present: Gerri Brightwell, Mike Castellini, Bernie Coakley, Candi Dierenfield, Cindy Fabbri, Andrea Ferrante, Brian Himelbloom, Kelly Houlton, Duff Johnston, Franz Meyer, Joy Morrison, Channon Price

Excused: Steve Hunt, Diana DiStefano, Chris Lott, Trina Mamoon

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

Andrea reported that faculty are already being contacted but there was a problem that Sally Skrip had to work to resolve with Blue and OIT, therefore the electronic evaluations will not be emailed to students until December 4. The FAQ is being updated by Sally as new questions come in.

During the past months several presentations on the new Blue system have occurred across campus for faculty and deans. Andrea noted that faculty reactions have been more positive than expected and questions have mostly focused on the impact the new system will have on Promotion and Tenure. The ECAI Committee has been in contact with the Unit Criteria Committee to address the fact that some UAF unit criteria have specific numerical course evaluation values in their list of requirements that will need to be adjusted. Franz commented that revisiting unit criteria for P and T results in a much needed discussion on exactly what defines a good teacher.

IV. Upcoming activities of the UAF Office of Faculty Development (report from Joy)

Joy reported that her session on eXplorance Blue with Andrea Ferrante and Sally Skrip went really well, as did the two training sessions on Faculty 180. She organized a session on graduate advising with Mike Castellini that had four attendees. Joy is inviting a group up from the Anchorage Faculty Development Office in the spring to talk about bullying. They have filmed some skits and are selling copies of the videos.

Joy attended the POD Conference in San Francisco and organized two panels there: How do you become a Faculty Developer, and a global panel on Faculty Development. She will have funding next year to take someone along with her. C.P. commented that he went and found it very helpful – particularly with electronic evaluation. The POD Conference invariably occurs at the end of October or beginning of November.

V. Upcoming activities by UAF eLearning & Distance Education

Chris Lott was unable to attend.

VI. Discussion on Status of the Faculty Mentoring program

Franz led the discussion by stating that the current economic climate means faculty have less time to invest in the faculty mentoring process. He offered the following two questions: 1) In a time of tightening budgets, how can we assure that our new faculty will be successful? And 2) Should there be a process put in place to give faculty mentoring more structure and to better incentivize mentoring activities? Currently deans assign a mentor to their new faculty members, and then Joy organizes a mentor luncheon at which mentors and mentees are provided some information on the mentoring process (leaflet). Bernie asked whether there is a fixed term for mentoring, and Joy answered that there is not. The traditional practice has been that the dean or department chair assigns a mentor to new faculty. Gerri noted that the English Department has a faculty development committee. Joy proposed that re-establishing a “mentoring credit” where mentors receive one credit on their workload agreement per mentee would be a good way to start adding the needed structure to the success – and accountability – to the mentoring process.

Franz will establish an online document that lists the main steps of the mentoring process and provides information on the current status of the mentoring program at UAF. New ideas and concepts can then be developed. Joy will provide the team with all her information on her mentoring activities.

VII. Other Business

- a. Scheduling of December FDAI meeting (current schedule would fall into finals week)

Franz will send out an email to determine the December meeting date. Franz will also initiate a Doodle poll for spring semester meeting dates.

VIII. Upcoming events

- a. Next FDAI meeting: TBD
- b. Next admin committee meeting: 11/30/15
- c. Next Faculty Senate meeting: 12/07/15

IX. Adjourned at 3:05 pm. (Respectfully submitted by Kelly Houlton.)