



The University Assessment Council

Minutes

September 24, 2019

Hagood Conference Room, Reese Phifer

Attendees

Ginger Bishop, Ross Bryan, Christy Cole, Chris Coleman, Allison Curington, Holly Hallmann, James Hardin, Suzanne Horsley, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Grace Lee, Cecil Robinson, Tim Salazar, Kevin Walker

- Ginger Bishop provided an overview of ongoing preparations for our upcoming SACSCOC [Fifth-Year Interim Report](#) (due March 2021). Her slides have been made available to the UAC as a PDF. Our past reports to SACSCOC can be found online: <https://oie.ua.edu/accreditation>
- Cecil Robinson gave an update on OAA's Faculty Learning Community (FLC) initiative (a copy of his handout has been appended below). Several FLCs, all on different topics, will launch in 2020. Each will aim to implement best practices and generate scholarship around teaching & learning. One FLC, to be led by Cecil, will focus on *improving learning, teaching, and assessment*—a.k.a. the S13 Project, after the row of UA's assessment feedback rubric that covers use of assessment results to improve student learning. UAC members were encouraged to identify individuals for whom the S13 FLC would be a good match—for example, faculty teaching a course that's critical to student mastery of program SLOs. Instructors and program assessment coordinators could participate as a team. An application process will be announced soon; a mid-November deadline is anticipated.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: October 22, 2019

Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs)

Overview

An FLC is a small group of multidisciplinary faculty who build community by engaging with a curriculum about improving teaching and learning through seminars and the scholarship of teaching and learning. An FLC is outcomes-based; every participant is expected to implement a teaching and learning project, and produce scholarship around teaching and learning.

Application and FLC Timeline

Applications will be due in Early to Mid-November. Participants will be notified of their acceptance before Thanksgiving. The FLCs will last 12-18 months, starting in January 2020.

Spring 2020: Learning about core topics and designing an improvement project with meetings every 2-3 weeks. Identifying publication / presentation outlets.

Fall 2020: Implementing the improvement project and supporting / being supported by other FLC members with meetings every 3 weeks.

Spring 2021: Analyzing data, submitting results for presentation and publication.

Benefits of FLC Participation

Develop community with like-minded faculty across campus and enjoy free food!

Support to improve your teaching, and increased scholarship of teaching

FLC group travel expenses to national conference.

\$2000 Professional development upon successful completion of FLC

*• Tech & ASMT coord
could participate
as a team*

FLC Projects for Spring 2020

The S13 Project: Improving Learning, Teaching, & Assessment

Facilitators: Cecil Robinson, Chris Coleman, Michael Lawson

The purpose of this FLC is to develop faculty who learn to improve the learning, teaching, and assessment of at least one course tied to a program's student learning outcomes. The curriculum will draw from learning and improvement science literature to develop a 'good enough' improvement method that can be incorporated in our everyday teaching practices. **Contact: Cecil Robinson (crobinso@ua.edu).**

Communicating about Race and Diversity

Facilitator: Mary Meares

This FLC will focus on developing faculty members' skills in facilitating discussion and talking about race and cultural diversity with students. There are cognitive (knowledge) and affective components to this (comfort with engaging on topics of diversity). Ultimately, I would want faculty and students to feel more comfortable and be more effective in talking about differences in constructive and substantive ways, regardless of discipline. Models of intercultural competence (e.g., Deardorff, 2009) are useful in guiding this process, addressing the important components skills, knowledge, and awareness we need to build.

Contact: Mary Meares (mmmeares@ua.edu).