

TALE Ambassador Minutes

For September 18 and 19, 2006

Attendance: Tony Zilz (Exceptionalities); Mike Ruffini (Educational Studies and Secondary Education); David Magolis (Library); Chris Haririan (Finance and Legal Studies); Martina Vidovic (Economics); Stephanie Schlitz (English); Alicia Redfern (Psychology); Jason Genovese (Mass Communication.); Bill Harrar (Counseling); Bill Hudon (History); Rao Korukonda (CIS/MIS); Joan Dillon (DDI); Kunyoung Kim (Music); Ghassan Ibrahim (Physics and ET); Jason Godeke (Art/Art History); Celina Byers (IT); Drue Coles (Math and CS); Jeff Brunskill (Geography and Geosciences); Suzanne Sklaney (Audio and Speech Pathology); Gilbert Darbouze (Languages and Cultures); Eric Hawrelak (Chemistry); Carl Hansen (Biology); Ruth Kennedy (Elementary Education); John Okpara (Management); Neil Strine (Political Science); Doreen Jowi (Communication. Studies and Theater Arts); and Shelley Randall (TALE Director).

Handouts: agenda, list of TALE Ambassadors, calendar of TALE events fall 2006, and faculty stipend application form

1. Attendance figures at TALE events:
(15) Textbook vs. Reality: What Students (and faculty) Can Learn from Collaborative Research
(7) Dialogue on Getting Students to Read and Dealing with Hurtful Student Comments
2. Please encourage faculty members to attend Active Learning Workshops by Mel Silberman on October 5, 1:00-4:00 PM; repeated on October 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. RSVP randall@bloomu.edu **Action: invite/encourage faculty members to attend (it is ok to attend only part of the three hours, depending on your teaching schedule)**
3. New and Newer Faculty social gathering on September 20, 4:00-5:00 PM BEST OF BLOOMSBURG list. New/Newer Faculty Committee includes Megumi Otori (Sociology); Joe Andreacci (Exercise Science); Clay Corbin (Biology); and Joan Dillon (DDI). Joan Dillon highlighted the activities hosted by the New and Newer Faculty Committee. **Action: invite new folks to attend**
4. Budget: \$8274. (has increased from \$3244. since May 2001). Funding for Action Plans has become a permanent part of the TALE budget on items such as Book Chat Groups, four \$250. faculty stipends for conferences, Faculty Learning Communities, and Professional Development travel for TALE Director.
5. Four \$250. faculty stipends are available to attend a conference on teaching and learning or a pre/post conference workshop on teaching and learning. Attached is the application (you also need to submit the regular Travel Request Form, found on the S drive). Applications are **due November 3, 2006, 4:00 PM to Shelley Randall, 007**

BCH. The two TALE Committee Co-Chair Kevin Ferland (Math and CS) and Joan Benek-Rivera (Management) and the TALE Director will review the applications and select the recipients.

Action: encourage your department members to apply

6. I nominated Suzanne Sklaney, Audiology and Speech Pathology to attend the Lilly Conference in November. Deans from each college may also nominate one candidate. Lilly Conference attendees also include: Margaret Slusser (Nursing); Pamela Donovan (Sociology); John Rude (Accounting); and Jeffrey Brunskill (Geography and Geosciences). Alicia Redfern, Rao Korukonda, and Carl Hansen described their experiences of attending the Lilly Conference in previous years.
7. I will attend the POD (Professional Organizational Development) Network Conference in Portland, Oregon October 24-29.
8. Report of Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for 2005-06. A summary of the three surveys of the FLC was shared. Nine people met one hour per week, every two weeks for the entire academic year. Focus was on revising a course of their choosing and providing and receiving feedback from the group and establishing a collegial atmosphere for discussion of topics on teaching and learning. Additional topics on teaching and learning were discussed and members received professional books for their personal libraries. Alicia Redfern and Bill Hudon shared the benefits they gained of participating in the Faculty Learning Community for 2005-06. Lisa Stallbaumer (History) has instituted a FLC on Historical Cognition with members of the History Department. TALE is supporting the purchase of some of the materials for this new FLC.
9. There was a discussion of future Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) and suggestions/comments regarding preference of topics. Shelley will establish a FLC for spring 2007 for Junior Faculty (years 2-5). **Action: Please email names of interested faculty members to Shelley.** On November 1, 12:00-1:00, the FLC from 2005-06 will share their reflections/experiences of participation in a FLC. **Action: encourage faculty to attend the November 1 session to find out more about FLCs.**
10. Your comments/suggestions
Jason Godeke expressed appreciation for handouts sent electronically regarding pertaining to TALE sessions as scheduling conflicts prevent some faculty members attending the noon time sessions.

NEXT AMBASSADOR MEETINGS: Tuesday, November 7, 3:30-4:30 PM OR Wednesday, November 8, 12:00-1:00 PM

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Present: Celina Byers, IT; Heather Feldhaus, Sociology/SW/CJ; Bill Harrar, Counseling; Bill Hudon, History; Ruth Kennedy, Elementary Education; Kim Kunyoung, Music; Rao Korukonda, CIS; John Okpara, Management; Martina, Vidovic, Economics; Carl Hansen, Biology and Allied Sciences; Christine Haririan, Finance and Legal Studies; Eric Hawrelak, Chemistry; Ghassan Ibrahim, Physics; David Magolis, Library; Alicia Redfern, Psychology; Stephanie Schlitz, English; Walter Zilz, Exceptionalities, and Shelley Randall, TALE Director.

Attendance figures

Noon time seminars

- Need to give negative feedback? Use the principles of supportive communication (5)
- Reaching your students through instructional games (7)
- Why do I need a password to get into my computer when no one else does (16)
- Building academic literacy (6)
- And the questions is? A test-item writing workshop (5)
- Faculty Learning Community (FLC) roundtable (11)

New/Newer faculty gatherings

Best of Bloomsburg (13)

Social at Clancy's (21)

Mel Silberman Active Learning Workshops October 5 and 6

- Attached is summary of evaluation surveys of event (successful and useful)
- 45 faculty members, 24 departments
- The highest percentage of faculty members attending: Biology; high percentage of faculty members attending: DDI and Languages and Culture
- Three books by Silberman on active learning have been ordered and are available for check out in TALE Resource Room.
- November 8 Ambassador meeting resulted in several faculty members sharing ideas gained from the Silberman workshops.

Faculty Learning Communities (FLC)

- Bill Hudon and Alicia Redfern described the benefits of their participation in the 2005-06 FLC in which the interdisciplinary group of 9 faculty members met biweekly for both semesters and worked on redesigning a course of their choosing with feedback from the FLC members.
- Lisa Stallbaumer, History has started a FLC in the History Department, focusing on Historical Cognition. TALE has supported this initiative with \$300. in materials.
- A new FLC for Junior (non-tenured, years 2-5) faculty members will begin in January 2007. Applications (attached) are due November 29 to srandall@bloomu.edu.

Action: Encourage your department members to apply for this new FLC.

Survey of Faculty Use of TALE Center and Resources

Ambassadors were asked to review the survey and provide Shelley with comments. Survey will be distributed electronically in January 2007. Suggestions included offering incentives such as a drawing for IPODs for completion of survey; don't offer incentives because those who have participated in any TALE events would more likely fill out survey.

Action: Fill out survey in January.

Faculty stipend \$250.

- Recipients for 2006-07 include Reza Noubary, Mathematics, CS, and Statistics; Michael Patte, Elementary/EC; and Sheng Ding, Political Science.
- Applications were reviewed by TALE Committee Co-Chair Kevin Ferland and Joan Benek-Rivera and the TALE Director.
- Discussion on how to get more faculty members to apply for this stipend, designed to encourage and support faculty members attending a conference on teaching and learning who normally would not attend due to lack of departmental funding in their own discipline.
- Suggestions included:
 - (1) Offer one \$1000. stipend with the rationale that people could attend without additional funding from department and also without having to present a paper to get additional departmental funding.
 - (2) Seek commitment from all departments and Deans to also financially support attendance at the conference.

Action: Shelley will discuss feasibility of each option with Jonathan Lincoln. If full commitment from all departments and Deans is not possible due to other priorities, Shelley will rewrite application guidelines for fall 2007 to offer only one \$1000. stipend.

Reorganization of TALE to include faculty professional development on technology

Shelley will be meeting on November 17, 2006 with Provost Mackin, Jonathan Lincoln, Wayne Mohr, and Regina Bobak to discuss the reorganization of TALE. Preliminary discussions have occurred. Shelley also elicited input from the POD listserv on ideas for structurally combining pedagogy and technology professional development under one "umbrella" while maintaining the integrity of both TALE and the services provided by Regina Bobak. Shelley provided a summary of this useful input to all participants for the November 17 meeting.

Shelley gave examples of the benefits of such a merger and also the cautions.

Action: Shelley welcomes any suggestions/comments regarding this reconfiguration.

Outstanding Teaching Award

- November 2-December 2 nominations open to December 2006 graduates and will be combined with May and August 2007 graduates' nominations.
- Emails have been sent to all December graduates plus announcements in the VOICE and BU Today page inviting graduates to submit a nomination.
- Darrin Kass and Yvette Samson (both previous recipients of the award) are learning how to monitor the on-line process so that Helmut Doll will not be directly involved (he has designed and monitored the on-line nomination process for five years).

- Thank you to Karen Trifonoff and Helmut Doll who have previously monitored the on-line process.
- Outstanding Teaching Award Committee (Cindy Venn, Pete Bohling, Laura Davis, and Shelley Randall) will conduct a blind review of the nominations. The committee met, along with Darrin Kass and Yvette Samson on September 22, 2006 and unanimously decided to limit the times a faculty member can be nominated and receive the award to once every ten years.

Summary of Shelley's participation at the POD Network conference (report of conference attached)

Shelley reported the conference was productive and will be useful in future TALE programming. She expressed appreciation of the \$1000. in funding by Jonathan Lincoln's office to support professional development for the TALE Director.

Usefulness/cost of electronic version of *The Teaching Professor*

- Currently, TALE annually receives 10 issues for \$79. and the paper copies are available in the TALE Center. However, very few faculty members read the newsletter, despite posting of article titles on TALE web site and paper copies in binder in TALE Center.
- An electronic subscription for 20 faculty members is \$650. and for 450 faculty members is \$950.
- In comparison, the eight Teaching Excellence Essays sent out electronically by TALE to faculty members cost \$100. annually.
- Several ambassadors suggested checking with library and library committee as to their subscription capabilities/policies.

Action: Shelley will send sample copies to all faculty members and **elicit input** as to usefulness. Shelley will also check with library personnel.

Additional comments

Question about universal meeting time on Fridays 3:00-5:00 PM. Will all university committees meet at this time? Mandatory department meetings at this time??? Impact on TALE for offering workshops???

Action: Shelley will check on this.

NEXT AMBASSADOR MEETING will be in early spring 2007 semester.