

TALE Ambassadors Meeting #1 - Fall 2008

Wednesday, October 6, 2:00-3:00 PM & Thursday, October 7, 9:30-10:30 AM 006 Bakeless

Minutes

Attendees: Bill Harrar-Academic Support Advisement Faculty, Gary S. Robson-Accounting, Faith Warner-Anthropology, Nogin Chung-Art, Suzanne Sklaney-Audiology & Speech Pathology, Carl A. Hansen-Biology & Allied Science, Loreen Powell – Business Ed/BIS, Phil Osburn-Chemistry, A. Rao Korukonda-CIS/MIS, Alan Goodboy-Com Studies & Theater Arts, Dawit Senbet-Economics, David E. Walker-Elementary ED/E. Childhood, Stephanie Schlitz-English, Joseph Hazzard-Exercise Science & Athletics, Jeffrey Brunskill-Geography & Geosciences, Lisa Stallbaumer- Beishline-History, Celina Byers-IT, Luke Springman-Language & Cultures, John Okpara – Management, Michael Stephans-Math & Computer Science, Kunyoung Kim-Music, Gary Hardcastle-Philosophy, David Simpson-Physics, Sheng Ding-Political Science, Kevin Ball-Psychology, Shane Jaynes-Sociology, Michael Ruffini-Secondary Education

Not in attendance: Maureen Walsh-Exceptionalities, Victoria Geyfman-Finance & Legal Studies, David Magolis-Library, Monica Favia-Marketing, Jason Genovese-Mass Communications, Deb Sanders-Nursing, Camille Belolan-DDI

Guests: Janet Reynolds Bodenman-TALE Co-Chair/Communication Studies & Theatre Arts
Lawrence Fritz-Asst. V.P and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
Jonathan Lincoln, Asst. V.P., Dean of Undergraduate Education, Academic Affairs

Agenda Item 1: Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Sheila Jones called the meetings to order and welcomed members to this semester's first meeting of the TALE Center Ambassadors. The Ambassadors subsequently introduced themselves and provided the name of their respective departments.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes April 2 & 3, 2008 Ambassadors Meetings

Dr. Jones gave a brief explanation of the combined Minutes format to both groups of Ambassadors. (i.e., Notes from both meetings were combined into one report; ideas presented and discussed are grouped by subject.)

Agenda Item 3: FALL 2008 ACTIVITIES

a. TALE Fall Workshop & Lecture – Evaluation Data (Approx. 133 attendees)

Dr. Jones gave a brief overview of Dr. Zakrajsek's workshops and evaluation data.

The contract with Todd was for approximately \$3,500, which equals to approximately \$29.00 per person for the workshops and lecture.

Question: Why were the workshops in the TALE Center instead of Kehr Union? More people could sign up if workshops are held in a larger setting.

Answer: Todd Zakrajsek preferred a smaller setting. He wanted more one-on-one contact.

Suggestion: Keep offering smaller training workshops, along with lectures for larger groups.

Misc. note: Regarding the lecture, a public school teacher wanted to know if the lecture qualified for Act 48 hours. Although the lecture did not qualify for Act 48 hours this time, Dr. Jones will investigate the possibility for future lectures sponsored by the TALE Center.

b. New and Newer Committee: (Janet Bodenman, Kevin Ferland, Sheila Jones, Christopher Podeschi, Brett Simpson, Luke Springman, Alison Stone-Briggs, Melissa Taylor, David Walker, Deb Mucci)

- The New & Newer Committee met and developed the “Best of Bloomsburg” list that was made available at the Welcome Social for New Faculty & Partners. A subgroup was formed to investigate the possibility of sponsoring social activities for new, single faculty.
- Dr. Jones gave a presentation during the New Faculty Orientation. Small bookstore bags containing post-it holders (printed with the TALE logo), Press-Enterprise FYI’s, & the TALE brochures were distributed to new faculty.
- Misc Note – Dr. Jones expressed some concern regarding the number of training opportunities offered across campus. It would be helpful if the announcements of these professional development opportunities could be centralized. Dr. Jones plans to invite other offices to disseminate information about their training opportunities through the TALE Center brochure.

c. Two Fall Book Chats (*Teach with Your Strengths & WayPoint*)

- Two Book Chats are being held this Fall. During previous years, book chats were only held during the spring semesters. Fourteen people registered for the *Teach with Your Strengths* book chat which is more than the number of faculty that participated in the Spring semester book chats. Sheila Jones and Alison Stone-Briggs are the facilitators.
- The Waypoint team, with eight of the original members, continues to meet for training provided by Dr. Celina Byers, Department of Instructional Technology. Currently, the team is writing an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Question: Why are they only being held on one day?

Answer: Usually they are offered only in the spring. Due to Dr. Jones’ schedule, a second day could not be accommodated. The *Teach with Your Strengths* book chat may be offered again in the Spring on another day, along with a second book chat.

- d. 17 Fall Seminars - The seminar days were changed to Tuesday & Wednesday. The number of faculty attending the fall seminars will be an indicator if this practice should be continued into the spring semester. (Note - There were only twelve seminars last fall.)

Comments – Pleased with the wider range of seminar topics.

- e. Outstanding Teacher Award (Fall Nominations in November)
Nominations for the Outstanding Teacher Award will be solicited in November. As recommended by this committee, another faculty member will be identified to serve on the committee.
- f. TALE Teacher-Scholars Awards Committee - Dissemination of the Teacher-Scholars Awards Handbook will occur in November with the deadline for applications January 30, 2009. The goal is to increase the number of grant submitted and funded. A suggestion was made to have the deadlines for all the grants on one web site.
- g. Survey Professional Education Faculty - Working collaboratively with Dr. Brown and Dean Mark, Dr. Jones will assist in conducting a survey of “Professional Education Faculty” to determine training needs specific to the conceptual framework for the School of Education.
- h. Community-Based Service Learning Opportunities - A luncheon is planned for November 20th for faculty engaging in community-based service learning projects as a component of their coursework. Faculty attending the luncheon will participate in a needs assessment to identify the supports needed to continue these projects and the current barriers or challenges of organizing these projects. Community-based service learning classroom projects are part of the University’s Strategic Plan.

Questions/Comments –

Original Plan was conceptualized ten years ago and faded. Chancellors’ office wants colleges and universities to be more of a partner with community agencies. One student club has a relationship with Habitat for Humanity. There’s a lot of involvement in the College of Science & Technology concerning the watershed. An individual in the SOLVE office is the contact for faculty. Ten years ago a Service Learning Banquet was held; however, it was discontinued 4-5 years ago. The faculty nominated students to attend the luncheon. It was suggested we should try to revive the tradition.

Agenda Item 4: Update on Mentoring Program – Dr. Lincoln (October 6th meeting.)

Per Dr.Lincoln – With regard to the 2008 Faculty Orientation day, feedback indicated too much information was presented and it was held on the Thursday before classes start. An Orientation Program for new faculty could involve reassigned time. This has been discussed with President Soltz; a number of the campuses he worked at had similar programs. The President has a lot of

interest in this program, and is in favor of the program. The Mentoring Program will be presented to the Dean's Council. Dr. Mackin will present the idea to the Meet & Discuss committee. After it is presented to Meet & Discuss, some decisions can be made regarding the implementation of a formal mentor program. There is some concern over the impact given the current budget climate. The discussion is in progress and making its way through various channels.

Questions/Comments – Do we have a New Faculty Mentoring Program here?

With the current program, Deans are responsible for assigning mentors to new full-time tenure track faculty. The program is relatively unstructured, without a lot of requirements. This proposed mentoring program would be a more formal program with structured activities during the course of the orientation program. Currently, mentoring programs vary from College to College.

Suggestion: There was previously a formalized program through the TALE Center but it “fizzled”.

Suggestion - Check data before reinventing the wheel. The “formality” might be more of an incentive.

Information from the Mentor/Mentee survey, plus data solicited from the TALE Ambassadors were incorporated into the proposed mentor program written by Dr. Jones.

Question: Do we have the financial resources to implement the program next fall?

Answer: It is proposed that New Faculty carry a 9 credit load, and would receive 3 credits to attend the Mentoring Program during the fall semester. The course load would revert to 12 credits in the spring.

Agenda Item 5: Reflections on Current Status of Undergraduate Research at BU

Ambassadors were requested to share examples of Undergraduate Research conducted by their departments. The need for a formalized undergraduate research emerged from the data collected by the mentor survey.

Anthropology – Practicum requirement/Students do research, write a paper, and attend a conference. Students have two opportunities to present original research at conferences. There are two venues for publishing: Focus & Online Undergrad journal. Independent Studies – Internship combined with a research component. Courses encourage research at the Individual and at a group levels. Students are involved directly with faculty research.

Biology – A lot of faculty have undergraduates students working on research. How do you embed research in the course? Sciences have a module; but are not using it consistently. How do we apply it to other disciplines? Experimental – A lot of multifaceted research involves collaboration of eight or nine faculty members, however, there is only one faculty member on record. This involves writing a paper, publishing it, and attending a conference. Students are permitted to have two independent research studies, up to 6 credits. International Science Foundation is concerned about the integration of education and research. This should be promoted.

Chemistry – All chemistry majors have to take two semesters of research. Working with under graduate students is not part of a faculty member’s course load. Their department sends approximately a dozen students to national seminars.

CIS – Students do a research paper & present at a conference. Students interested in making a presentation participated. Problem – Everyone had to travel at their own expense. Faculty had to supervising these projects in addition to their own workload.

Early Childhood and Elementary Education – Current, no undergraduate research is being conducted.

Exercise Science - Student Mentoring program includes 20 hours with a faculty member. Students can seek a faculty member outside of that class to collaborate with; the whole department is involved.

Health Physics – Required (corporate backed) internship – Students present papers at a national conference. A company sponsored students present and attend a conference.

History Majors – Two part project, including a History research paper, is required of history majors. Honor society requests recommendations for papers to be presented at a conference. Summer school money is used to support this project.
Suggestion - Look into creative use of funds. Seven students presented papers at regional and national conferences. Dr. Stallbaumer-Beishline served as a clearing house for papers submitted. History has a capstone course built in. History and Psychology have modules.

Honors Program – The honors program requires a research project. At some colleges offer an honors track within specific majors. Nothing would prevent a department from doing that here.

Instructional Technology – Graduate Students – Practitioner oriented program. Students work on solutions for various companies. Examples, students developed a training module for flight training simulation.

Management – Does applied research.

Psychology – They offer a three credit independent study program. Students write a paper; some receive a stipend for the amount of \$250.00. Students must do research, and write a final paper.

Speech Pathology – Created an undergraduate research independent study program.

Cons/Barriers:

- Time and setting it up.

- Students receive course credits (1-3 credits). Faculty supervising research programs do not receive credit.
- Don't have the faculty manpower to engage in faculty and student research.
- Lack of money to pay faculty & students, lack of time, etc.
- IRB changes - Procedure is less efficient as compared to the past. Concern about how long it takes to get IRB approval.
- Studies are not being approved, particularly independent studies in Psychology, as a result of funding policy change. Pool of money is not big enough for faculty research.
- Funding levels have not increased for faculty working with students.
- Regards to promotion – There is not a separate category for faculty to include their involvement in undergraduate research in the promotion application.
- Faculty professional development travel grants do not pay for faculty to travel with students.
- Bloomsburg University Tenure – Scholarship – Research with students is not valued on tenure document.
- Promotion – During conversation regarding promotion, this is not valued. In what category should student research be documented-Scholarship? Possibly set up a separate category. Could go under scholarship or teaching. Collaborative & Faculty Mentoring.
- Lack of staff support to pursue grant funding. It would be helpful to have a grant writer on staff.
- Model for Social Science Research – Problems:
 - A) Difficult to do in one semester.
 - B) IRB – Concern about how long it takes to get approval.
 - C) Class size – Department has been offering that for years. It's a lot of work. Did six years straight. Not all departments would have a course like that.
- National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE) – Bloomsburg University has a lot of students willing to do these studies. Unfortunately it is voluntary and the students do not receive credit their transcripts.

Pros/Incentives/Benefits:

- Oral presentation could be included on a student's resume and used as a job reference.
- Students have a publication on their resume.
- Incentive for all students.
- The University needs to value undergraduate research and mentoring students. How is it ranked? Not ranked as high as your own work.
- Student involved research should be more highly valued.
- Students see other departments doing research and wonder why students in their major are not engaged in research.
- International Science Foundation – All about integration of education and research.
- It would be beneficial to have a grant writer for faculty.

- Offer grants for research and travel abroad.
- Pay students for research.

Miscellaneous Notes -

Dr. Fritz suggested that we survey all departments to determine if they are offering research opportunities to undergraduate students. Do all departments offer an independent study/research program? Stated he would be happy to help with grant funding. SPIN Network – Alerts you to grant opportunities. Faculty were encouraged to take grant ideas to Dr. Harris, who will go through the guidelines with them.

General consensus regarding Undergraduate Research – This topic should be explored a little more. If it is something that is valued by the university, then the student and professor can both benefit.

Next meeting: Nov. 10th & 11th.

Both meetings were adjourned by consensus.

TALE Ambassadors Meeting #2 - Fall 2008

Monday, November 10, 2:00-3:00 PM & Tuesday, November 11, 9:30-10:30 AM 006 Bakeless

Minutes

Attendees: Bill Harrar-Academic Support Advisement Faculty, Gary S. Robson-Accounting, Faith Warner-Anthropology, Nogin Chung-Art, Suzanne Sklaney-Audiology & Speech Pathology, Carl A. Hansen-Biology & Allied Science, Loreen Powell – Business Ed/BIS, Phil Osburn-Chemistry, A. Rao Korukonda-CIS/MIS, Alan Goodboy-Com Studies & Theater Arts, Camille Belolan-DDI, Dawit Senbet-Economics, David E. Walker-Elementary ED/E. Childhood, Maureen Walsh-Exceptionalities, Joseph Hazzard-Exercise Science & Athletics, Victoria Geyfman-Finance & Legal Studies, Jeffrey Brunskill-Geography & Geosciences, Lisa Stallbaumer- Beishline-History, Celina Byers-IT, Luke Springman-Language & Cultures, John Okpara – Management, Michael Stephans-Math & Computer Science, David Magolis-Library, David Simpson-Physics, Sheng Ding-Political Science, Kevin Ball-Psychology, , Michael Ruffini-Secondary Education

Departments Not in Attendance: English, Marketing, Mass Communications, Music, Nursing, Philosophy, Sociology

Guests: Janet Reynolds Bodenman-TALE Co-Chair/Communication Studies & Theatre Arts
Jonathan Lincoln, Asst. V.P., Dean of Undergraduate Education, Academic Affairs

Agenda Item 1: Review of October 6 & 7 Minutes

Dr. Sheila Jones called the meetings to order and welcomed everyone to the 2nd Fall TALE Center Ambassadors Meeting. The October 6-7, 2008 Minutes were approved with the following two corrections – Camille Belolan-DDI was not in attendance at either meeting, and “Business Ed/OIS” was changed to “Business Ed/BIS”.

Agenda Item 2: TALE Center Move in December – McCormick 1231

The TALE Center and offices will be moving from Bakeless to McCormick on December 15, 2008. This is a temporary move for the Spring and Summer semesters. Bakeless will be down for renovations.

Agenda Item 3: Dissemination of Teacher-Scholar Awards Handbook

The Teacher-Scholar Awards Announcement and Handbook are scheduled to be disseminated. The application deadline is January 30, 2009. Grant recipients will be announced in February. A representative from the College of Business will be asked to serve on the Teacher-Scholar Awards Committee. Approximately, \$15,000.00 is budgeted for these awards. Recipient(s) are required to conduct a TALE seminar. It was suggested that the details of last year’s winning proposals be included in the grant announcement. Ambassadors were asked to encourage colleagues to submit proposals. People who previously submitted proposals and did not receive an award are encouraged to resubmit their proposals.

Agenda Item 4: Fall Speaker Committee – Volunteers Needed

Dr. Jones requested volunteers to meet during the Spring semester to identify and secure a Fall Speaker. David Walker and Loreen Powell volunteered.

Agenda Item 5: Spring Activities

Undergraduate Research Workshop – Dr. John Hranitz is investigating the possibility of inviting a speaker or group of speakers for Spring 2009 to conduct a two-day workshop. The second day would be a repeat of the first; however, the format could be geared toward Social Sciences on Thursday, and Biology and Natural Sciences on Friday. A lecture (that would include an invitation to public schools) would also be held. The training sessions will be held in Kehr Union. The Undergraduate Research workshop information will be included in the TALE Spring brochure.

Questions/Comments – A centralized core of information regarding undergraduate research would be beneficial to faculty. Currently, undergraduate research is fragmented across the university. For example – in the Chemistry Department professors and students submit ideas; the department determines and approves undergraduate research proposals. It was suggested that the policies and procedures should have a departmental focus. Undergraduate research is one of the University Strategic Plan goals. There is no centralized location where undergraduate research is being coordinated. It was suggested that Dr. Jerrold Harris should collect information on the procedures and types of undergraduate research being conducted on campus.

Seminars (general, technology/pedagogy strands, leadership training, grant writing) –

There is a general consensus that current training is not centralized. Pedagogy/Technology and Grant strands will be included in the TALE Spring 2009 brochure. The Pedagogy/Technology strands will be conducted by Dr. Regina Bobak and Ms. Julie Wolfe, and will include Beyond BlackBoard, Podcasts, Blogs, and On-line Learning. Dr. Bobak is conducting two one-hour sessions on BlackBoard in the spring semester. Allison Stone-Briggs will be conducting leadership training and team building workshops. Seminars for old and new department chairpersons were held this semester, additional team building seminars will be sponsored in the spring.

Questions/Comments – It was suggested that Human Resources and Kristina Wood be informed about these workshops to avoid duplication.

A yearlong series of grant writing workshops will be conducted by Dr. Jerrold Harris. Available grants will be identified. Participants can present drafts of grants to obtain feedback from the workshop participants and Dr. Harris.

Questions/Comments – It was suggested that a needs assessment or survey on grant writing be conducted to determine grant writing supports needed by the faculty. A website listing the

available grants would be beneficial. One suggestion was for faculty to explore the SPIN PROGRAM which identifies national, state and local grants. Jerrold Harris is the contact person to access SPIN. Dr. Harris should conduct a seminar on SPIN.

Book Chat (Waypoint continuation, Team Building, Teach with Your Strengths) –

The Waypoint group is evolving into a natural learning community with participants from several disciplines. The group, consisting of nine faculty, will submit a manuscript for publication in December. Several members are participating in the Lilly East Conference, Newark, Delaware in April.

Questions/Comments - We should send out an announcement to all faculty listing the names of those attending the Lilly East Conference.

Fourteen faculty are participating in the Fall Book Chat, "Teach with Your Strengths!" Change action plans with goals and objectives to implement next semester will be designed.

Questions/Comments – The Fall Book Chat was only offered on one day of the week. Scheduling Book Chats is challenging when attempting to accommodate faculty teaching schedules.

Spring 2009 Book Chats – The following books/topics were selected as a result of the Needs Assessment and Mentor/Mentee survey results. A list of potential books was reviewed by the TALE Ambassadors. A brief discussion concerning the following books ensued:

1. TEACH WITH YOUR STRENGTHS!
2. BEYOND TESTS AND QUIZZES: CREATIVE ASSESSMENTS IN THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM
3. THE 17 ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF A TEAM PLAYER & THE 17 INDISPUTABLE LAWS OF TEAMWORK WORKBOOK
4. TEACHING THE LARGE COLLEGE CLASS: A GUIDEBOOK FOR INSTRUCTORS WITH MULTITUDES
5. BUILDING ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITIES: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM
6. ASSESSMENT IN GENERAL EDUCATION

Teaching the Large Class – Suggestion: Extend invitation to all faculty. However, target faculty teaching large classes, and those with experience teaching large classes. The book chat should be open to all departments. Offer it in the spring to help faculty teaching large classes prepare for fall courses. The content is applicable to courses with 60-70+ class sizes.

Building Online Learning Communities – A discussion concerning the "Distance Learning and Laptop Initiative" ensued. Bloomsburg University is ranked 14th out of 14 with our sister universities with regards to distance education. Dr. David Walker, a member of the Laptop Online Committee, will inform other members that this book may be used for a TALE Book Chat to encourage their

participation. Laptop – Distance and Education Committee may be a good resource. This Task Force is still investigating distance education and guidelines for on-line learning.

Suggestion - The Team Player book could be offered as part of a Leadership Strand.

Miscellaneous comments/suggestions –

1. Mention that the books on the list address the Needs Assessment and the Mentoring surveys.
2. Include the selections of books for the Book Chats as an item for everyone's next department meeting.
3. Do a Book Chat survey on Survey Monkey.
4. Make copies of the Book Chat list; encourage ambassadors to disseminate list in departments.
5. Collect information from those not interested in the Book Chat selections.

The preferences from the 11/10 meeting were *Assessment*, *Online Learning Communities*, and *Large College Classroom*.

Outstanding Teacher Award –

Announcements will be disseminated by email and through *Voice*.

Spring Picnic –

Since graduation is scheduled early in May, it may be difficult to schedule a convenient time for faculty. The decision to sponsor a spring TALE Center social will be made by the ambassadors next semester.

Agenda Item 6: Office of Community Outreach -

Dr. Jones is helping Dr. James Brown plan a Community-Based Service Learning (Working) Luncheon scheduled to be held on November 20th. The needs of faculty interested in participating in community-based service learning projects will be assessed.

Agenda Item 7: TALE Fall Social – Friday, December 5th, 4-7:00 PM Alumni House

All ambassadors are invited and asked to bring a guest.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Mentoring Program –

Per Dr. Lincoln – The proposed formal orientation for new faculty would include re-assigned time. New faculty will be assigned a nine-credit course load during the fall semester, with quarter-time release to participate in mentoring workshops. A twelve-credit course load will be assigned in the spring semester. The proposed Mentoring Program is on the agenda for the next Meet and Discuss meeting. The President has reviewed it, and the discussion is on-going. A decision will occur by the end of the fall semester whether or not it can be implemented for the Fall 2009 semester.

Both meetings were adjourned by consensus.