

TALE Ambassadors Meetings #1 for Spring 2007 Minutes
Tuesday, January 30, 12:30-1:30 or Wednesday, January 31, 12:00-1:00; 006 Bakeless

Present: Jeff Brunskill, Geography and Geosciences; Jason Genovese, Mass Communications; Jason Godeke, Art; Christine Haririan, Finance; Eric Hawrelak, Chemistry; Gary Robson, Accounting; Kim Kunyoung, Music; Bill Harrar, Counseling; Ruth Kennedy, Elementary Education; Tony Zilz, Exceptionalities; John Okpara, Management; Rao Korukonda, CIS/MIS; Suzanne Sklaney, Audiology and Speech Pathology; Drue Coles, Math and CS; David Magolis, Library; Loreen Powell, Business Ed/BIS; Conrad Quintyn, Anthropology; Stephanie Schlitz, English; Neil Strine, Political Science; Michael Ruffini, Secondary Education; Doreen Jowi, Comm. Studies and Theatre; Carl Hansen, Biology; Joan Dillon, DDI; Alicia Redfern, Psychology; William Hudon, History; Ghassan Ibrahim, Physics and ET; Celina Byers, IT, and Shelley Randall, TALE Director.

1. Semi-annual report of TALE Director was shared with the Ambassadors.
2. Promote completing TALE survey by February 8. As of 1-30-07, 149 faculty members have taken the on-line survey.
Action: Ask department members to click on the survey at:
<http://ot.bloomu.edu/surveys/TALECenterSurvey.htm>
3. The electronic *Teaching Professor* for all faculty members is available. **Action:** Please send the attached directions to each faculty member in your department and encourage them to sign up for this free newsletter on teaching and learning. Once they sign up, an announcement of topics for each issue will be sent to their campus email address.
4. Book chat groups on *The Missing Professor* will begin the first week in February. Twenty-eight people have signed up for the three different time slots.
5. Junior faculty learning community. First meeting was on January 23; the seven members will meet bi-weekly during the spring semester. Tony Dilz and Stephanie Schlitz, FLC participants, described the Jr. FLC. They discussed the book *What the Best College Teachers Do* at their first meeting and will use the book as a framework for expanding discussions and applying the material to a specific course, of their choice.
The History Faculty Learning Community, HELC, led by Lisa Stallbaumer, met during the fall semester and will re-group, re-organize, and begin meeting again in fall 2007.
6. New/newer faculty events. The committee is planning an event for February.
7. Your ideas/comments. Ambassadors at both meetings asked about the status of the two options previously presented by the Provost regarding the reorganization of TALE. Discussion followed.

- Ambassadors were encouraged to attend the Forum meeting on January 31, 3:00 PM in the Kehr Union, Multicultural B to learn about the four models to be presented by the Provost.
- Shelley asked the Ambassadors to consider the following regarding TALE:
 - History of TALE initiated and implemented by faculty members with pedagogy as the driving force and where faculty input is valued.
 - Management and reporting structure of the proposed models.
 - Examine whether there will be opportunities for TALE to expand in programming (additional faculty learning communities, annual sessions on pedagogy for new faculty members, etc.).
 - Where will the emphasis be: *teaching and learning supported by technology OR technology with the hope that teaching and learning will result?*

Minutes of Ambassador Meetings

March 20 (12:30-1:30) and March 21 (12:00-1:00) 2007; 006 Bakeless

Present: Gary Robson (Accounting); Jason Genovese (Mass Comm.); Joan Dillon (DDI); Ruth Kennedy (Elementary Education); Kunyoung Kim (Music); Jason Godeke (Art); Drue Coles (Math/CS); John Okpara (Management); Neil Strine (Political Science); David Magolis (Library); Suzanne Sklaney (Audiology/Speech Pathology); Carl Hansen (Biology); Michael Ruffini (Secondary Education); Bill Harrar (Counseling); Tony Zilz (Exceptionalities); Ghassan Ibrahim (Physics and ET); Stephanie Schlitz (English); William Hudon (History); and Shelley Randall (TALE Director)

1. **Attendance** at TALE events:

- The Women's Leadership Institute (13)
- Book Chat Groups for February (23)
- Geographic Information Systems (14)
- Exploration of the Most Prevalent Mental Disorders on Campus (11)
- Book Chat Groups for March (21)
- Silberman Active Learning Follow up [re-scheduled due to compressed schedule] (9)
- Jr. Faculty Learning Communities [7 members meet bi-weekly] (6), (6), (6)

2. Highlights and discussion of TALE Survey results and implications for the future: [the results of the survey have also been shared with the Deans' Council by Jonathan Lincoln]

Highlights of results indicate faculty members value TALE and utilize the programs and resources provided by TALE.

- 186 respondents: 41% assistant profs; 23% associate profs; 28% profs; 8% instructors; 1% other (rounded up)
- 44% were 0-5 years at BU; 16%, 6-10 years; 16%, 11-15 years; 9%, 16-20 years; 15%, 21+ years
- 34% attend lunchtime seminars; 18% attend outside speaker workshops

- 70% attend 1-3 seminar sessions each semester; 24% attend 0 sessions; 6% attend 4-6 sessions
- Book chat group participation has increased from 2002-2006
- 81% consider TALE session valuable/useful; 13% neutral
- 70% consider outside speaker workshops valuable/useful; 26% neutral
- 67% believe TALE has teaching resources available for their use; 29% neutral
- 46% consider TALE web site a valuable/useful resource; 51% neutral
- 48% believe it is easy to locate the TALE web site; 43% neutral
- 74% consider the Teaching Excellence Essays useful/valuable; 22% neutral
- 65% consider TALE a resource if have questions about teaching; 21% neutral
- 61% have changed teaching, aspects of course, scholarship interests because of participation in TALE
- Comments on specifics of changes in teaching: very positive; cited many specific uses of ideas presented through TALE
- Additional comments: like the interdisciplinary connections/interactions with people across campus; support TALE but sessions conflict with teaching schedule; keep TALE as is; watch tying all teaching and learning to technology; continue to have TALE be driven by faculty needs; do not need another administrative or technological overlay.

Suggestions/action in response to discussion of results:

- **Action:** Shelley will check with Jonathan Lincoln and Geoffrey Mehl on re-design and re-positioning of web site to make web site more visible.
- **Action:** Continue and expand faculty-centered programming for both senior and new/newer faculty members.
- **Action:** Could consider offering a few TALE sessions at times other than lunchtime although in the past, faculty members were surveyed and lunchtime sessions were still the preferred time for the majority.

3. Shelley shared her ideas for the term of TALE Director and specific examples for future expansion of TALE programs [she has already shared these ideas with Jonathan Lincoln who shared them with the Deans' Council]

Director:

- Increase reassigned time to $\frac{3}{4}$ each semester (currently $\frac{1}{2}$ each term) so that increased programming could be offered [rationale: concern that a full-time position as TALE Director may decrease number of faculty members willing to leave teaching for an extended period of time]
- Go with 3 year term (as department chairs) [currently a 2 year term]
- Person should be a tenured faculty member and at least an associate professor [rationale: pressure of tenure/promotion process; need experience in university teaching and with university policies/culture]

Future expansion of programs with appropriate additional reassigned time for TALE Director to implement [Note: not all of the following can necessarily be met by $\frac{3}{4}$ reassigned time position]

- Increase the number of faculty learning communities to 4: non-tenured group; senior faculty (6+ years); two interest groups changing annually (e.g. re-designing

- a course; support for writing journal articles, etc.) [provide resources, monitor, and evaluate effectiveness]
- Conduct on-going two-hour workshops for new faculty on topics that would “jump start” their teaching. Participants would be exposed to topic, try out ideas, re-convene, and provide/receive feedback with a cohort. Possible topics: constructivist teaching, learning styles, active learning, assessment, large vs. small classes, team-based learning, depth vs. breadth issues, research on how students learn, what the best college teachers do, critical moments in a course, etc.
 - Monthly mentoring programs, monitoring, training.
 - Pedagogy topics offered annually and perhaps at varying times e.g. developing critical thinking skills, building a syllabus, learning styles, etc.
4. Shelley shared Jonathan Lincoln’s report to her of the Deans’ Council’s decisions regarding TALE:
- TALE will remain as is with the TALE Director reporting to Jonathan Lincoln.
 - The position of TALE Director will be advertised soon as ½ reassigned time for both fall and spring semesters. Shelley has provided Jonathan Lincoln with a list of suggested faculty members who are active in TALE to be asked to serve on the search committee for the new TALE Director.
5. Jonathan Lincoln has written **two action plans for future expansion of TALE** with input from Shelley, Deans’ Council, Ambassadors, Forum, and other discussions regarding TALE.
- Increase TALE position by ¼ for both fall and spring semesters; increase operating budget to \$3000. Additional funds would result in two additional full year faculty learning communities (FLC), targeting senior faculty and an interest FLC. Also, four 2-hour workshops would be offered each semester, targeting new/newer faculty members.
 - Establish a new minigrant program that will allow faculty to pursue pedagogy projects including implementation of new classroom strategies, pursuit of pedagogy-related research, and travel to pedagogy-related conferences. (Currently, \$1000. has been set aside for this purpose; add an additional \$17,000 through an action plan).
6. Outstanding Teaching Award nominations (March 2-April 2) for May/August 2007 graduates; nominations will be combined with December graduates and Outstanding Teaching Award Committee will blind-review, and select two recipients. Recipients will each receive \$750 for professional development incentives, funded by the BU Foundation.
7. Elicitation of proposals for fall 2007 TALE sessions will be forthcoming the end of March.

8. *The Teaching Professor* (electronically) has been purchased as a group subscription for faculty members for December 2006-December 2007. So far, 49 faculty members have logged on and receive monthly this newsletter.
Action: encourage your department members to subscribe; attached are the directions for logging on (please send to your department members).
9. Additional Ambassador suggestions/comments: Increase budget for outside guest speaker to reflect increased speakers' fees and travel expenses. (currently budget is \$2000. total).
10. Shelley thanked the Ambassadors for all their time and work in contributing to continuing the TALE spirit and being excellent liaisons with their departments.