

## MEMORANDUM

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Faculty Development Steering Committee (FDSC) Report for 2021-2022

The Faculty Development Steering Committee met once in the fall semester on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The second meeting of the academic year is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Members included Jason Beach, Elizabeth Acuff (resource), Matt Smith (resource), Steve Robinson, Jeannette Luna, Doug Bates, Darek Potter, and Lenly Weathers. Dr. Russell was elected to continue as chairperson at the first meeting in addition to serving as Ex-Officio.

The primary focus of all FDSC meetings this year was how to best bridge faculty needs with new and existing resources for faculty development. Specifically, with establishment of the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (CAFÉ), how does this committee help steer direction of the CAFÉ and inform programs and decisions to successfully integrate the CAFÉ into the campus culture. The establishment of a fulltime, permanent Communications and Training Coordinator, who fulfills the same job responsibilities for the CAFÉ and the CITL, has improved campus communication about the CAFÉ with a diverse approach to communication, including a dynamic webpage.

At the first meeting, additional focus areas included:

- FDSC bylaws and procedures revisions were reviewed and Dr. Russell will make sure those get on an Academic Council agenda for early Fall 2022. Revisions largely were position and personnel updates given the last action on the bylaws and procedures was in 2010.
- Discussions continued of how the steering committee would function relative to CAFÉ infrastructure and it was determined that this group would continue to serve as the CAFÉ advisory group for strategic planning purposes.
- CITL updates were provided by Dr. Jason Beach, CITL Director, including the new Adjunct and GTA Academies being offered effective Fall 2021.
- QEP updates were provided by Dr. Weathers.
- Dean Bates discussed the decreasing library budget and its impact on faculty needs.
- STEM Center updates were provided by Darek Potter.
- Dr. Russell discussed the expanded New Faculty Orientation for the year, including the new virtual site where resources for new faculty will be perpetually placed for the year.
- The group would like to see expansion of faculty awards and recognition of faculty efforts in online education. The first online education and course design awards were given in October 2021 at the Faculty Awards Ceremony. These awards will continue to be given with review of nominees and selection by the CITL.
- The group also would like for the awards given by the University to offer more clarity in types of awards and for the process to be streamlined (call for nominations for example). Dr. Russell will take these requests to the Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee for discussion and will report back to the FDSC.
- The committee reviewed the Spring 21 Faculty Needs Assessment Survey distributed by the CAFÉ. Over 180 faculty, of diverse rank appointments, responded to the survey about their professional development needs. In addition to continued professional development in teaching and learning improvements, the data also showed that more opportunities for scholarly work,

issues of diversity and inclusion, and more campus engagement, were areas of equal importance to faculty. As a result, the CAFÉ has worked with the Office of Research to expand the Research 101 Workshop Series and established CAFÉ Conversations for this year with a Series with the President's Cabinet and one on Diversity and Inclusion. Evaluation of those efforts will be ongoing to inform next year's CAFÉ planning and events. Follow-up surveys will also be ongoing.

At the \*second meeting, the following updates will be provided:

- Center or Program Updates:
  - QEP
  - CITL
  - STEM Center
  - CAFÉ
- Institutional Membership Resources Updates
  - LinkedIn Learning®
  - Online Learning Consortium (OLC)
  - National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

\*Due to timing of requests by Academic Council for annual reports prior to convening of our second meeting, only the agenda for that meeting has been included for purposes of the annual report to the Academic Council. The minutes of the April 11 meeting will be available at the first FDSC meeting of Fall 22 with any necessary follow up and substantive narrative to be provided within next year's annual report.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bedelia A. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bedelia" being more prominent and the last name "Russell" following in a similar style.

Dr. Bedelia Russell, Chair and Executive Officer