

Grand Valley State University
Faculty Teaching and Learning Center Advisory Committee (FTLC-AC)
2013-2014 Year End Report

To:

Karen Gipson, Chair of ECS/UAS
Tonya Parker, Vice-Chair of ECS/UAS

From: Kyle Felker, Chair of FTLC-AC

Date: April 14, 2014

2012-2013 Faculty Teaching & Learning Center Advisory Committee Members

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Vandana Pednecker-Magal (COM) (2016)
Janel Pettes-Guikema (MLL) (2015)
Peter Riemersma (GEO) (2014)
Mike Roskamp(PLS) (2014)

Seidman College of Business

Bruce Bettinghaus (2015)

College of Community and Public Service

Michael Scantlebury (HTM) (2014)

College of Education

David Bair (2014)

Padnos College of Engineering and Computing

Mostafa El-Said (2014)

College of Health Professions

Alicia Davis (2015)

Kirkhof College of Nursing

Barbara Hooper (2016)

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Zulema Moret (2014)

University Libraries

Kyle Felker (2015) Chair

Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center Representative(s)

Christine Rener, Director, Pew FTLC

Kurt Ellenberger, Associate Director, Grants

Dana Munk, Director, Part-time Faculty Support

Patty Stow Bolea, Faculty Fellow

Kathryn Stieler, Faculty Fellow

IT Ex Officio

Matthew Roberts

Student Senate Representative

Jacob Schacht

Academic Year 2013-14 Charges

- 1. Support Dr. Christine Rener, the FTLC Director, and meet with the FTLC staff to execute goals for the 2013-14 academic year, with special emphasis on:*
 - a. Professional Development for teaching general education skills goals;*
 - b. Professional Development for appropriate integration of technology and simulations.*

Actions Taken:

Dr. Rener reports at every meeting about FTLCAC activities and resources, which committee members are encouraged to share with their respective faculty.

Kathryn Stieler and Kurt Ellenberger co-chaired the FTLC Grants Sub-Committee and were assisted by five members of FTLC-AC who served on this sub-committee. This sub-committee reviewed three cycles of FTLC competitive grant applications. During 2013-14, a total of 31 grant applications were reviewed and grant funds of \$148,895.32 were awarded.

Patricia Stow Bolea (Faculty Fellow) chaired the FTLC Teaching Awards Sub-Committee and five members of FTLC-AC served on this sub-committee. This sub-committee reviewed the nominees for each of the FTLC Teaching Awards and selected recipients for each award. The names of the recipients can be found at <http://www.gvsu.edu/provost/2013-honorees-67.htm>

FTLCAC held several discussions this year centered around understanding simulations, which resulted in the creation of a good working definition of what the term means:

"A classroom activity in which students are active participants, having some degree of choice or agency that directs the course of the lesson."

By chance, there was considerable expertise in using simulations among faculty in FTLCAC this year, which resulted in some very rich discussions about challenges in using them in the classroom. We identified a number of areas in which instructors experience challenges in using these kinds of classroom activities: workload issues (these kinds of activities can be very resource and time intensive to plan), ethical issues, and the difficulty of developing grading rubrics for such activities. Committee members made a number of suggestions about how FTLC could help, including increasing the visibility of the simulation center and holding a mini-conference on the topic. Several of the committee members volunteered to make themselves available to help in such efforts.

2. *Provide guidance to ECS/UAS on the value of standardizing the tools for and uses of student perceptions of teaching across all units. If necessary, make separate recommendations for:*
 - a. *Survey instruments*
 - b. *Delivery method.*

The chair in particular has been very involved in a variety of conversations this year surrounding student evaluations of teaching. There have been a number of presentations, a compiled bibliography, and discussions at many, many meetings. Recently, FTLCAC drafted a memo to the newly-created task force designed to make them aware of some of the issues and pitfalls FTLCAC encountered during the SET selection process, in the hopes of helping them be successful in their work.

3. *Review Faculty Handbook language regarding FTLAC responsibilities, especially as related to overlap with the Online Education Committee, and make recommendations to improve clarity.*

After discussion with the OEC chair, it was agreed that both groups would begin by reviewing both charges separately. After doing so, we saw little or no language that we thought would be problematic. OEC chair drafted a memo to ECS to this effect, and FTLCAC approved it.

Other Actions Taken 2013-2014

After a thorough review of the teaching awards this year, FTLCAC recommended that the criteria and purpose for all the awards be thoroughly reviewed by FTLC. This includes the teaching award, the Teaching With Technology Award, and the Library Excellence Award. In addition, a subcommittee was formed to create and assemble documentation that the committee felt would be useful to departments in managing the awards process, including a suggested timeline for nominations, sample packets for nominees to use as models, and other material. The work of that subcommittee will continue in 2014/2015.