

**Grand Valley State University
Faculty Teaching and Learning Center Advisory Committee (FTLC-AC)
2014-2015 Year End Report**

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

From: Janel Pettes Guikema, Chair of FTLC-AC

Date: April 10, 2015

2014-2015 Faculty Teaching & Learning Center Advisory Committee Members

CLAS: Janel Pettes Guikema (MLL) Chair, Vandana Pednecker-Magal (COM), Robert Talbert (MTH), Janet Vigna (BIO)
SCB: Vijay Gondhalekar (FIN) (Fall), Bruce Bettinghaus (Winter)
CCPS: Jamie Langlois (SSW)
COE: Cathy Meyer-Looze
PCEC: Mostafa El-Said
CHP: Cynthia Grapezynski
KCON: Barbara Hooper
BCOIS: Gordon Alderink
University Libraries: Matthew Reidsma

Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center Representatives

Christine Rener, Director, Pew FTLC
Kathryn Stieler, Associate Director, Grants
Dana Munk, Director, Part-time Faculty Support
Patty Stow Bolea, Faculty Fellow

IT Ex Officio

Matthew Roberts

Student Senate Representatives

Elizabete Saukas
Scott St. Louis

Academic Year 2014-2015 Charges

1. *Support Dr. Christine Rener, the FTLC Director, and meet with the FTLC staff to execute goals for the 2014-2015 academic year, with special emphasis on:*
 - a. *Exploring ways to promote the scholarship of teaching, in particular investigating possible disconnects between the Faculty Handbook and unit expectations;*
 - b. *Investigating ways to promote best practices for academic integrity;*
 - c. *Supporting the implementation of USETI recommendations.*

Dr. Christine Rener reports at every meeting about FTLC activities and resources, which Advisory Committee members are encouraged to share with their respective units. Committee members report FTLC information to their respective colleges and encourage faculty in their colleges to participate in FTLC events and take advantage of resources available.

Kathryn Stieler chaired the FTLC Grants Sub-Committee and was assisted by six members of FTLC-AC. This sub-committee reviewed three cycles of FTLC competitive grant applications. During 2014-15, a total of 19 grant applications were reviewed, and grant funds of \$56,671.60 were awarded.

Patty Stow Bolea (Faculty Fellow) chaired the FTLC Teaching Awards Sub-Committee and was assisted by five members of FTLC-AC. 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/ftlc/teaching-awards-31.htm>

- a. The FTLC-AC spent a considerable amount of time exploring the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). First, the committee talked about the nature of SoTL to ensure that we had a common understanding of what it is – and what it is not – before coming up with ways to promote it. Second, we looked into what is already being done at GVSU to promote SoTL. We invited Robert Smart, Executive Director of the CSCE, to talk with us about how SoTL is viewed and supported by the CSCE. Third, we investigated “possible disconnects between the Faculty Handbook and unit expectations”. And finally, we formed two sub-committees: one to identify supportive language used by several colleges and units in tenure and promotion documents, and the other to work on a document to promote SoTL. Several suggestions were then made to the FTLC:
 - Create a flier that introduces faculty to SoTL and addresses basic questions.
 - Provide a permanent online resource housed at the FTLC website.
 - Publish a recurring "newsletter" highlighting helpful articles about SoTL research, success stories on campus, grant opportunities, announcements of conferences, etc.
 - Share suggested language for academic units to include in their promotion/tenure documentation that would be supportive of SoTL research as a legitimate form of scholarship that can be considered when making promotion/tenure decisions.
- b. The committee discussed a number of ways to promote best practices for academic integrity, based on the Academic Integrity Action Plan approved by the APSC in 2011. Several committee members reported from their colleges/units (Seidman School of Business & University Libraries) to look at initiatives already in place. It was decided that more information was needed to help situate the action plan in context before moving forward with a concrete plan in response.
- c. The committee did not discuss the implementation of USETI recommendations.

2. Review the process for FTLC teaching awards, and look for ways to streamline the process, for example by:

- a. creating a suggested timeline to ensure timely submission of materials,*
- b. redesigning the forms as appropriate,*
- c. posting examples of excellent applications*

The FTLC invited units to consider a review of nomination processes more formally at the unit level. Award nomination forms and recommendations were revised, and a sample award packet was posted on the FTLC website.

3. Review the process for FTLC grants, and look for ways to improve the process.

K. Stieler reported on changes that are being made to streamline and clarify the grant application process, and the committee discussed these. Issues being addressed include: gathering greater data about grants and applications, simplifying the process of applying, encouraging proposals for more truly innovative projects, and addressing issues with awarding travel grants and overlap with CSCE.

4. Confer with the appropriate committees in KCON and CHP to recommend best practices for teaching with simulations, and make recommendations regarding transferable practices to other colleges and units.

The committee did not have enough time to discuss this charge.

5. Review Faculty Handbook language of the description of the duties of FTLC-AC and make recommendations for changes as appropriate.

The committee made extensive revisions to update and simplify the FTLC-AC description in the Faculty Handbook, and these changes were approved by ECS/UAS.

Other Actions Taken 2014-2015

FTLC-AC members voted to meet from 1-3pm on the second Monday of each month for regular meetings beginning in January 2015. The rationale for this meeting change was to allow for more in-depth meetings (1 hour is rather short in regards to getting things accomplished) and to make it easier for the sub-committees for grants, teaching awards and/or taskforces related to FTLC-AC to meet on other Mondays during the academic year during approximately the same time frame.

The FTLC-AC also provided feedback to Melissa Selby-Theut (University Counseling Center) who came to one of our meetings to talk about several ideas that would involve more purposeful integration of student services programming in the academic sphere. She specifically requested the FTLC-AC's input on a "substitute-on-demand" style system that would allow faculty to view programming available from departments within the Division.