

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED TEACHING SCHOLARS

Office Of The Provost
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Meeting Notes

Date: Friday September 23, 2011

Time: 11:45 am – 12:35 pm

Place: 239 Tigert Hall

The Academy met on the date and times indicated above. The meeting agenda and supporting materials discussed in the meeting are appended below, including annotations made by the Secretary of the Academy.

Attendees: *Distinguished Teaching Scholars:* Prof. Jeffrey Adler, Prof. Barbara A. Barletta, Prof. Diana Boxer, Prof. Sanford V. Berg, Prof. Bona Miklos, Prof. Oscar D. Crisalle, Prof. Sidney Homan Jr., Prof. William Logan, Prof. Howard Louthan, Prof. Michael T. Olexa, and Prof. W. Gregory Sawyer.

Others: Senior Administrative Assistant Ellen M. Sattler

AGENDA

1. Welcome to new inductees. Discussion of expectations.
2. Status of the *Teaching and Learning Center* project. Latest developments and upcoming meeting.
3. Report to the Graduate School - Academy observations on the *Teaching at UF* orientation events of August 15-16.
4. Status of project proposal: *The University of Florida Academic Scholars Walk*
5. Review of current Academy Committees. Proposed strategic planning events.
6. Items from the floor

MEETING HANDOUTS AND NOTES

1. NEW INDUCTEES – ORIENTATION AND GUIDELINES

Sid Homan and Oscar Crisalle are fine-tuning the wording of Article 6 of the Academy's *Internal Policies and Practices* document. The current wording of the article is given below for reference. A revised draft will be submitted for Academy review in our next meeting (all members are invited to provide suggestions to Sid and Oscar).

Barbara Barletta suggested that these guidelines and expectations be incorporated in the application materials for prospective Teaching Scholars. There was common assent to this suggestion.

Article 6: Orientation and guidelines for new inductees

- 6.1 The Academy expects that all new inductees either: 1. to join one or more ongoing sub-committees focusing on a specific project of the Academy; or 2. after they feel they are sufficiently oriented with the principles of the Academy, to define and pursue a worthy project.
- 6.2 It is assumed that members will participate in all Academy meetings (and those of any sub-committees the member has joined) throughout the duration of their careers. Since each member is compensated with a three-year grant, an Academy member is expected to attend such meetings with a very high regularity, and, for this reason, schedules should be adjusted so members will be free from conflicts that would interfere with their attendance. Extended absences because of Sabbatical leaves and other formally approved leaves will be reasonably compensated by extending by an appropriate period of time for that three-year period of mandatory attendance.
- 6.3 New inductees are required to join (or initiate) at least one committee during their first term of induction.
- 6.4 All members are expected to formulate a concrete plan of how they will contribute to the vision and mission of The Academy. The plan may be an entirely new initiative, or a proposal that would complement an on-going project. Collaboration activities with other members are acceptable and encouraged. Such plans should be presented in an Academy meeting no later than the first of November of the second year of induction.
- 6.5 New inductees are encouraged to participate actively in other projects of The Academy different from their own proposed projects.

2. STATUS UPDATE: *TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER*

On August 23 Associate Provost Kathy Long distributed the e-mail message appended below, identifying an opportunity to create a "Virtual TLC," an new initiative that is offered as a substitute for the propositions that were previously discussed with the Academy and presented to the UF Academic Senate on March 24.

Dr. Long has scheduled a meeting to discuss the new proposition with members of the Academy and the members of the TLC Advisory Group as follows:

Date: September 30
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Place: 239 Tigert (light lunch will be provided)

From: "Long, Kathleen Ann" <longka@UFL.EDU>
Date: August 23, 2011 11:42:02 AM EDT
To: <ACADEMY-L@LISTS.UFL.EDU>
Subject: **Update on UF TLC**
Reply-To: Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars <ACADEMY-L@LISTS.UFL.EDU>

Dear ADTF and TLC Task Force,

Welcome to a new Academic Year. During the summer, the Provost and I have had an opportunity to further discuss the TLC proposal, and to meet with representatives from the CALS Teaching Resource Center. We have also talked with Dr. Mccollough about services available from his Office of IT, E-Learning and Distance Education and from the Office of Academic Technology.

There is an opportunity to develop a unique "virtual TLC" here at UF. This would be a website that collected all of the many resources currently available to assist faculty members to grow and develop in the teaching role. It could also include selected members of the ADTS who would be willing to mentor faculty members in particular aspects of teaching.

Given our resource-constrained environment, and indications from the CALS Center leadership that they cannot take on a University-wide Teaching -Learning Center at this time, it seems that this "virtual TLC" may be an interesting and innovative alternative.

I look forward to getting your thoughts about this idea. Ellen will be in touch with the ADTS leadership soon to convene a first meeting for the semester. She will also convene the TLC Advisory Group in the next month or so. I look forward to our conversations about a "virtual TLC" in both venues. Thanks.

Kathy Long

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There was substantial discussion about what members of the ADTS saw as a disappointing result for what had been a two-year project within the Academy. Oscar Crisalle raised the possibility of finding support from the UF Foundation for the TLC. Others were more generally concerned with the university's commitment (or lack thereof) to the general project of creating a university wide TLC. Members were encouraged to attend the September 30 meeting with Dean Long.

3. REPORT TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL – ACADEMY OBSERVATIONS ON THE TEACHING-AT-UF ORIENTATION EVENTS OF AUGUST 15-16

Senior Associate Dean Ken Gerhardt asked the Academy for feedback on the Graduate School's *Teaching at UF* orientation events organized by his office and conducted on August 15 and 16. The academy provided two observers:

- Prof. Sid Homan
- Prof. Nigel Richards

An official report with the observers' comments is in progress, and will be submitted to Dean Gerhardt in mid October on behalf of the entire Academy. A draft will be prepared by Oscar Crisalle, our former Chair, and will be circulated to all Academy members before official submission to Ken. Oscar Crisalle, Sid Homan and Nigel Richards attended the August session.

4. STATUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS WALK PROJECT

Efforts to meet with University of Florida Foundation officers to discuss this project were not successful due to various reasons related to scheduling constraints. A renewed initiative is under way.

Michael Olexa briefly reported the status of this undertaking. One of the proposed locations is outside Grinter Hall. The Scholar Walk is intended to highlight achievements of both students and faculty.

5. LIST OF CURRENT ACADEMY COMMITTEES

1. *Induction Procedures Committee (Standing Committee)*

Mission: Simplify the process for applying for membership in the Academy and ensure that correct and unambiguous application instructions are disseminated to the academic community. Specific projects include revising last year's procedure (including input from most recent inductees), drafting a proposal for improvements, coordinating the annual induction process including the specification of deadlines for announcements application-

submission, applicant-evaluation process, and assisting the Provost in the wording of the induction letter (include a statement indicating the lifetime right to use the title *Distinguished Teaching Scholar*, state expectations during the first 3 years of membership, etc.)

Chair: Gail Kauwell

Members: Oscar Crisalle, Sid Homan

2. Graduate School Interface Committee (Standing Committee)

Mission: Identify opportunities for supporting the activities of the Graduate School. Address issues of large significance to the educational mission of the university, including the promotion of academic honesty principles, and the implementation of preventative and remedial procedures that enhance academic values and ensure fair implementation of investigative procedures.

Chair: Nigel Richards

Members: Doug Levey. Other members are sought

3. Honors Program and Academic Quality Committee (Standing Committee)

Mission: Identify venues for the Academy to provide assistance in a formal fashion to the Honors Program and to the Center for Undergraduate Research, and identify and seek to implement policies, practices and procedures that lead to improvement in the academic quality of UF curriculum, with an emphasis on large-scope issues. Example projects include the analysis and cure of grade inflation problems, service in the advisory committee of the Honors Program and Center for Undergraduate Research, etc.

Chair: Howard Louthan

Members: Nigel Richards, Sandy Berg, William Logan, Miklos Bona, Michael Olexa, Elliot Douglas

4. Teaching and Learning Center Committee (Working Committee)

Mission: Establish and collaborate with a campus-wide Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), to educate UF graduate students and faculty on pedagogical practices, leading to a national reputation for UF as an institution committed to excellence in education.

Chair: Marianne Schmink

Members: Linda Behar-Horenstein, Greg Sawyer, Sid Homan, Doug Levey

5. Funding Initiatives Committee (Working Committee)

Mission: Identify opportunities for UF participation in large funding initiatives from governmental or private sources, and help to identify and establish a faculty and administrative team to draft and submit proposals on the topic of pedagogy. Specific tasks include making a list of funding sources, discussing with the Provost opportunities to provide material support

required to qualify as a grant applicant, and bringing together a team of faculty with suitable background to take on the task of writing the proposal.

Chair: A chair is sought.

Members: Miklos Bona

6. *International Initiatives Committee (Working Committee)*

Mission: Identify opportunities for enhancing the UF curriculum with international experiences. Specific projects include drafting a vision document for internationalizing the graduate UF curriculum, including study abroad programs for doctoral students, international dual degrees, as well as international ethics and cultural awareness issues.

Chair: Ranga Narayanan

Members: Marianne Schmick, Doug Levey, Miklos Bona, Oscar Crisalle

7. *Academic Scholars Walk Committee (Working Committee)*

Mission: Establish the *University of Florida Scholars Walk*, a physical site on campus displaying plaques recognizing our university's most distinguished faculty and student scholars.

Chair: Mike Olexa

Members: Oscar D. Crisalle, Elliot Douglas. Other members are sought

8. *Academic Best Practices Committee (Working Committee)*

Mission: Identify best practices for running Academy affairs, including election processes, and other internal policies and practices. Specific projects may include maintaining a document of internal policies and practices, and surveying the mission, vision, and activities of groups similar to our Academy that are currently functioning in other universities, (including Texas, Virginia, and Southern California) for the purpose of adopting and adapting their best practices.

Chair: Oscar Crisalle

Members: Sid Homan. Other members are sought.

6. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Sandy Berg initiated discussion concerning the impact of RCM and its implication on pedagogical excellence. There was a lively discussion cut short by time constraints. This will be a theme that the Academy will return to in future meetings.

Jeff Adler proposed that the Academy discuss the issue of teaching and how it is evaluated in questions of promotion and tenure.

William Logan brought forward the issue of evening block exams conflicting with block classes during this period. Some students are precluded from participation in certain evening classes as they may have a block exam that conflicts with the course.