Academy of Distinguished Scholar Teachers

2 March 2012

Attending members
J. Adler, B. Barletta, L. Behar-Horenstein, M. Bona, D. Boxer, O. Crisalle, E. Douglas, S. Homan, H. Louthan, N. Richards, M. Schmink

The meeting opened with an announcement of the induction ceremony.   The three new members will be officially welcomed at a ceremony at the President's Residence on Wednesday, April 4.

Elliott Douglas distributed a handout with a the Vision, Mission, and Overview statements of the Academy.   The statement also included a series of questions intended to prompt a broader discussion concerning the future direction of the Academy.   (See attached)

An evening meeting and dinner is planned on April 28 for at Sid Homan's residence for a fuller discussion on the Academy.

At this meeting, a wide range of issues were raised concerning possible activities and issues for the Academy to discuss and potentially pursue.

--Interdisciplinary Honors Course run by Academy Members

--Ways to improve the public image of the Academy

--Problem of plagiarism

--Possibility of mini-teaching grants

--Problems of bad teaching

--Series of position papers to be written by Academy members.

Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars

Vision
The Academy believes that original research inspires great teachers and that the challenges of teaching cultivate research. The university must create a habitat where research-whether into the enigmas of quantum mechanics or the beauty of lyric poetry, whether into the distant reaches of philosophy or the secret life of the nematode-provokes the insights of teaching, and where rigorous teaching originates in fresh research. To pass the knowledge of one generation on to the next, the university must foster the research that is the heart of learning. Where the teacher is surprised and enlightened, the student will follow.

Mission
The Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars serves as an advisory group with the mission to develop and recommend implementation of policies that enhance the University of Florida's ability to continuously improve its high level of academic excellence.

Overview
The Scholars program was initiated in August 2004 to reward our most effective educators and to utilize their expertise to advance the vision of scholarly excellence and faculty enhancement at the University of Florida. Academy members serve on the advisory board for Faculty Development for three years and assist the Associate Provost in developing programs and promoting policies that enhance the professional careers and experiences of faculty. Their mission is to develop and recommend implementation of policies that enhance the University of Florida's ability to continuously improve its high level of academic excellence. Academy members also promote a university-wide discourse on key issues surrounding the integration of teaching and research at the University.

History
- Founded in 2004 as advisory board to University Center for Excellence in Teaching. UCET was eliminated shortly afterwards.
- Activities conducted in recent years:
  - Resource for reviewers of various university awards and activities.
  - Developed plan for Teaching and Learning Center.
  - Developed plan for Scholars Walk.

Membership
- 26 total members.
- 2 members are no longer at UF.
- Approximately 14 active members.

Questions to consider
- Have we made an impact on scholarship at UF?

- To what extent can we "develop and recommend implementation of policies that enhance the University of Florida's ability to continuously improve its high level of academic excellence?"
- Given the current resource-constrained environment, should we spend time developing programs that require administration support to implement?
- How can we "promote a university-wide discourse on key issues surrounding the integration of teaching and research at the University"?

Proposed activities
- Writing position papers on issues of scholarship and teaching.
- Develop instructional materials for graduate students who will be teaching.
- Develop a required freshman course that describes a topic from various disciplinary perspectives.