

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED TEACHING SCHOLARS

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Meeting Notes

Date: November 09, 2009

Place: 239A Tigert Hall

Attendees: *Distinguished Teaching Scholars:* Dr. Douglas J. Levey, Dr. Michael Olexa, Dr. Marianne Schmink, Dr. Nigel Richardson, Dr. Sanford Berg, Dr. Gail Kauwell, Dr. Ranga Narayanan, and Dr. Linda Behar-Horenstein

Guests: Associate Provost Kathleen Ann Long, Associate Dean Kenneth J. Gerhardt

The Academy met on this date with the participation of the attendees listed above. The meeting started at 12:00 PM and adjourned at 1:00 PM. The subject matter discussed comprised the issues itemized below.

1 Discussion with Associate Dean Ken Gephardt

Ken would like to solicit the Academy's participation in the delivery of the annual *Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation* event organized by the Graduate School, intended to provide basic training to new Teaching Assistants.

One idea forwarded was to consider the creation of a special track of the *Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation* event geared to the specific needs of Teaching Assistants who will be assigned to laboratory courses, where they will be presented with a particularly different set of challenges associated with traditional laboratory responsibilities that do not have a counterpart in more classical classroom teaching environments.

Doug Levey proposed to lead a sub-group that would generate new ideas for participation of the Academy in this effort. Ken indicated that he would be receptive to any ideas from the Academy that address graduate education needs within a scope larger than the *Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation* session.

2 Definition of new procedures for application for membership in the Academy.

Gail Kauwell and Elliot Douglas presented a proposal describing new mechanics for the process of application for induction as an Academy member. The proposal was unanimously approved.

3 Centralized university teaching center resource

Associate Provost Long indicated that there is a functioning teaching center at IFAS and that a proposal from CALS has been presented to the Provost for expanding the operations of that teaching center. Doug Levey and Linda Behar-Horenstein volunteered to investigate if there are opportunities for the Academy to play a role leading to enabling the creation of a university-wide teaching center.

4 Teaching evaluations

The Faculty Welfare Council of the Senate is interested in addressing the question of whether the current teaching evaluation forms are relevant instruments for measuring teacher and course performance. Sandy Berg will follow up on the developments of this topic and report to the Academy in a future meeting.

5 Curriculum internationalization initiative

Dr Ranga Narayanan proposed to develop the basis for a program to internationalize the University of Florida curriculum. He intends to submit a draft proposal for discussion in the February 2010 meeting.

6 Discussion of future guests

The Academy Chair intends to invite Kevin Knudson, the director of the Honors Program, to attend the December meeting for discussing opportunities on how to establish venues for the Academy to assist in enhancing the effectiveness of the Honors Program.

In the Spring semester, the Chair will invite the Dean of the Graduate School, Prof. Hank Frierson, to discuss the broader question of Academy/Graduate-School interaction.

This record of meeting notes was prepared by Dr. Nigel Richards, Chair, and by Dr. Oscar D. Crisalle, Secretary.

Respectfully submitted by

Prof. Oscar D. Crisalle

Secretary, Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars