Faculty Development Committee 2.13.26

Attendance

Present: Karen Benckenstein, Melissa Eder, Brandon Fansler, Victor Favela, Robert Fulton, Maria Johnson, Lynne Kenney, Stephen Malley, Lori Petty, Anna Rodriguez, Greg Rohloff, Kara Starkweather, and Chelsea Thurman

Absent: Chris Hudson, Will Ratliff, and Frank Sobey

ACES Debrief

Volunteer Subcommittee (Anna & Melissa)

- Consider inviting external speakers from other institutions, not just keynoters.
- Consider having a back-up keynoter ready to go – possibly a Mead Award winner or a faculty member who presented an especially popular session.
    - That won't be necessary. A keynoter hasn't canceled in the previous 8 years.
- Post QR codes for the surveys more prominently.
- Staff each room with 2 volunteers – one to manage the door/sign-in and the other to introduce the speaker.
- Recruit more student volunteers to encourage their networking with faculty. The "floaters" worked well.
- Start recruiting earlier – late September.
- Add a question to the session proposal asking whether presenters want a formal introduction.
- Continue to offer to volunteers (and faculty presenters) a chance to do a walk-through of the facility. Robert did set those up for presenters, but they only learned where their assigned room was, and after so many sessions were rearranged on the day, there was unavoidable confusion.
- The Volunteer Subcommittee will also handle registration in the future, preparing sign-in sheets and room signage, organized by session (not room and time, as we did this year).
- The informational tables saw little traffic. Dedicating time to visit them would help.
- The volunteers adhered too strictly to enforcing the room capacities. Next year, we'll need to encourage more flexibility and decide if we want room capacities at all.

- The space was a significant improvement over Ordway. No negative feedback was received; possibly the strongest ACES in 8 years.

Donation Subcommittee (Maria & Chelsea)

- Prize distribution was still difficult, especially for adjunct faculty who are hard to reach.
- Next year, they'll require a sign-out to confirm pickups and set a time limit for delivery attempts.
- This year's remaining prizes will go to members of this committee.
- The prizes were of high quality, variety, and were well received.
- Using the registration numbers as the raffle numbers was a huge improvement: easy and efficient.

Logistics Subcommittee (Steve)

- There were duplicate snack orders due to unclear assignments. Next year, responsibilities will be more clearly delineated.
- Originally, the bay had not been scheduled for a session to allow set-up time for lunch. Greg taught his class there as they set up for lunch but said it was fine.
- Only about 50 chairs were available despite the request for 150. The Physical Plant simply didn't have more available on that day. Requests to them must include specific room destinations.
- Even though there weren't as many chairs as requested, seating seemed adequate.
- Boxed lunches were much better – the line moved more quickly.
- Breakfast at the front entrance was easy to find.
- There were no food complaints this year. Medical dietary needs were met. YOLOs was easy to work with.
- Police academy students helped with chair cleanup.

Survey Subcommittee (Kara)

- Survey results still need to go to presenters (aside from a few that Victor sent upon request) but rather than sending these results in bulk, ask presenters if they want their results, and then review those results with them, which will allow for more meaningful follow-up.
- Some attendees felt the session descriptions didn't accurately reflect content. We could add categories or tracks, using hashtags to follow. During the planning workshops offered to presenters, continue to work with them to sharpen descriptions. Target audience designations could be added to session descriptions,

but continue to encourage cross-disciplinary attendance (Steve shared how much he enjoyed hearing Greg's presentation while setting up for lunch. He likely wouldn't have attended that session, assuming it would not benefit him.)

- Should ACES be a full day? Could we restructure it as more of a workshop, with post-keynote departmental/divisional breakouts to apply what was learned? The original plan was to have a 1.5-hour application session for departments, but the agenda was changed, adding the strategic planning session. The goal is to finish the day by 3:00 p.m. If we decide to have these breakouts in the future, the deans will need to be involved.
- With the non-AI keynoter's cancellation, some believed the AI content was overrepresented. Variety will always be important, but national trends remain AI-focused, many of our faculty still need meaningful AI training.
- The choice of Thursday (and not the first day faculty are back) was well received. Moving it later in the semester has not worked in the past, and Fridays are too busy for West and East campuses.
- CTL will begin streaming and recording their training sessions and events.
- Concerns about the quality of some sessions were raised. No matter how much Victor and Robert work with presenters to prepare and no matter how high-quality the PowerPoints initially appear, this will occasionally occur. Committee members who attend a poor session should speak to Robert or Victor privately. We will not be evaluating peers, but Robert and Victor can work with presenters and determine which presenters will be invited to speak again at future events.
- Next time, presenters will be asked to include the QR code to the survey on their final slide. Codes will also be posted on the website and at room entrances (by the Volunteer/Registration Subcommittee).

Website Subcommittee (Karen & Brandon)

- The website was more work than expected. A master spreadsheet tracking sessions and room capacities would help. This was done last year. The proposals spreadsheet could be used to build one.
- All ACES communications should direct people to the website. Registration, possibly volunteer sign-ups, everything should be available through the website.
- CTL will explore a dedicated URL: www.actx.edu/ctl/ACES.
- Session descriptions should note target audience, with a possible drop-down list: all faculty, math faculty, etc.
- The earlier deadlines helped this year.
- Overall, the website worked well.

- A December planning meeting would help us all prepare, so next year, we'll likely meet one more time before the break.

Faculty Development

The Committee discussed the importance of shifting perceptions away from just "running ACES" to driving the College's professional development.

Common faculty feedback includes: "we've had enough AI, need flexible learning for faculty development, and want online modules." CTL offers make-and-takes on Fridays and lunch and learns, which will be streamed and recorded.

Committee members need to advocate across campuses, divisions, and departments. Let's gather input: what does the College need? Addressing market demands? Teaching hard skills like using Google Drive or more concept/strategy/idea-based skills? What modalities should we use? We've tried flexible and on-demand, but have poor attendance (CTL hosted an event before this meeting, and it was only attended by 5 people). Poor attendance was also why the rank and tenure classes were discontinued.

The Committee discussed the importance of providing opportunities for interdisciplinary work. The popular ACES session presented by Aaron Gann & Camille Graves (regarding effective communication and feedback) could be offered again as a Friday professional development session.

Although attendance is often low, voluntary attendance is preferred. Using faculty input and building on that is preferable to simply having top-down requirements to attend.

Teaching for Transformations is still occurring, and although some seem to think it's optional, it is required of new faculty. Those who attended that training previously complimented the opportunity for interdisciplinary cross-talk.

Victor will develop a survey seeking faculty input about faculty development needs. In the meantime, Committee members will talk to their teams about what's needed. Remember to ask about what support is needed to support dual credit students. What do faculty need when working with high school students? What's needed for the workforce? When we say "workforce" we immediately think only of West, East, and First Responders, but we're ALL workforce.

More support with hybrid classes was noted as a need. Alternatives to VidGrid are also a priority. CTL is investigating this: a Google product, OneDrive, and other products are being evaluated. All products are better than Blackboard Studio, but none are as good as VidGrid.

The August retreat is off the table now due to budget reductions.

Our next meeting will be scheduled for the first week we're back after Spring Break. Victor will send an Outlook calendar invite. He'll also build and distribute the faculty survey seeking input about professional development.