

Faculty Development Committee

Meeting of February 18, 2003

Present: Jo Beld, Elizabeth Hutchins, Heather Klopchin, Arnie Ostebee, Karen Sawyer Marsalek, Kathy Shea

Review of Grant Writing Workshop

At the February 11 workshop we reviewed guidelines for proposals to the Faculty Development and had presentations from people previously awarded grants, as well as CILA and GFR. Cold weather and the early closure of Northfield public schools on February 11 may have decreased attendance. Feedback from participants said the workshop overall was helpful and that presentations from successful applicants were the most helpful part. The CILA and GFR presentations were less relevant. Suggestions included having more discussion of budgets, with suggestions for allocation to salary and/or supplies, and more discussion on how the committee makes decisions about proposals. The list of previous awards and putting successful proposals on reserve in the library were also helpful.

Revisions to the Faculty Manual

Kathy made a presentation to Review and Planning on February 12 concerning our suggestions for revised guidelines for the Faculty Development Committee. The main point of discussion was whether FDC rather than RPC should review sabbatical proposals. Much of the discussion centered on whether sabbaticals were awards or entitlements. The end result was that RPC wanted to keep review of sabbatical proposals as part of their responsibility. I was asked to send the other proposed changes in green sheet format to be considered at the March faculty meeting.

Recommendations for Regents' Faculty Conference Committee

Jim Farrell, Martha Wallace and Heather Klopchin asked us to prioritize faculty development needs for a presentation by the committee at the February Board of Regents meeting. We listed released-time grants and pre-tenure leaves as our highest priority and discussed why they are important. Released-time grants allow faculty the time needed to start and/or finish scholarly or artistic projects. These grants benefit the students and the institution because faculty have the time to develop excitement about new projects. The process creates a culture of teacher-scholars who share their research with the rest of the world through writing and teaching. Research processes and results become incorporated into student research and classroom activities, leading to excitement about intellectual development. Support of faculty research enables St. Olaf to compete for first-rate faculty.

Mellby Lecture

Plans are progressing for the March 13 Mellby lecture by DeAne Lagerquist. Brochures, publicity and refreshments have been arranged.

Response to the Strategic Plan

We started discussing the draft of the Strategic Plan developed by President Thomforde. We felt the description of the work of the faculty member under Mission was demeaning. Faculty are both experts and guides, not just guides. We discussed that not everything the college does needs

to be in the Strategic Plan, only these things that have a high priority for change. Generally we felt that there should be specific goals for Faculty Development, which is only mentioned in connection with cross-cultural learning. We also felt that training and development should continue after market equity is achieved. Discussion will continue. We are requested to turn in comments by March 28.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place February 25 at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Shea