

## **FDC Annual Report 2016/2017**

The duties of the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) include helping to integrate new faculty into the University community, helping faculty improve their competence as teachers and scholars, promoting professional development among faculty, encouraging faculty research, scholarship, creativity, and artistic activity, promoting an atmosphere of shared scholarly activity, and advising the campus community on issues related to faculty development.

Each year, in accordance with its duty to help integrate new faculty into the University community, the FDC sponsors a New Faculty Orientation (NFO) program. In August of 2016 we welcomed 32 new Unit 3 members to Stanislaus State. Members of the campus community that assisted the FDC in administering the orientation included new faculty members, students from Faculty Mentor Program, university administrators, Library Services, the Office of Information Technology, Service Learning, Counseling Services, and Human Resources. At the NFO new faculty were given the opportunity to pair up with more senior peer mentors; the committee is pleased to report that six faculty mentor-protégé pairs were established in the week following NFO. Orientation activities for our incoming faculty concluded with a dinner hosted in the home of English professor Dr. Stephen Stryker.

At NFO, President Junn requested that the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (FCETL) support the development of an Untenured Faculty Organization (UFO) to support the success of junior tenure track faculty at Stanislaus State, modeled after the UFO at CSU Dominguez Hills. The Director of the FCETL, Professor Marina Gerson, assisted with organizing the initial gatherings of faculty participants in the UFO, and the FDC looks forward to both supporting and collaborating with the UFO in upcoming years.

This year the FCETL welcomed two “Faculty Fellows,” who worked through special projects, to advance scholarship and learning among colleagues. The Faculty Fellow for Fall 2017 was Dr. Shradha Tibrewal, Professor of Social Work, who hosted a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on using contemplative approaches to successfully manage the stress of academic life. Faculty participants also introduced mindfulness practices to their students, propagating this strategy for stress management.

The FCETL supported the work of a second Faculty Fellow in Spring 2017. Dr. Virginia Montero-Hernandez (Assistant Professor of Advanced Studies) led a FLC exploring how to effectively guide student research projects. This FLC was especially insightful for faculty with high levels of responsibility in guiding students through graduate thesis projects.

In Spring 2016, the Director of the FCETL and Faculty Lead Daniel Soodjinda applied for and were awarded \$20,000 from the Chancellor’s Office to support the Quality Assurance in Online and Hybrid Courses program for training faculty and mentors in the 2016/17 academic year. The FCETL partners with Erin Littlepage (Assessment Specialist) and OIT staff Glenn Pillsbury and Bob Koehler in the running of this program. In 2016/17, the program supported eight FLC participants in the revision or creation of online courses according to the standards outlined in the Quality in Online Learning and Teaching (QOLT) rubric and supported the training of another

four members of faculty who served as peer mentors to the FLC participants. A request for renewed funding is on track for submission to Chancellor's Office on May 18, 2017.

In accordance with its duties the FDC and the FCETL host an on-going program of workshops, book clubs, reading groups, and lectures. Book clubs hosted by faculty volunteers and Marina Gerson included the Writing your Journal Article in 12 Weeks Book Club Learning Community, Pedagogy Book Club, the Latin American Studies Reading Group, the Critical University Studies Book Club, the Nonfiction Book Club, and the Fiction Book Club. Themes of diversity and inclusivity ran through many of the selections (e.g., *Lab Girl*; *The Family Nobody Wanted*; *Make Your Home Among Strangers*; *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*; *The Center Cannot Hold*; *Between the World and Me*; *The Sellout*; and *Good White People: the Problem with Middle Class White Anti-Racism*), providing faculty a series of opportunities to explore ideas of culture, race, ethnicity, social background, stereotype, differences, and inclusivity. The Latin American Studies Reading Group continues to offer faculty a diversity of viewpoints and voices that differ from that of the mainstream resident of the United States.

The FDC also hosted a number of seminars in the Faculty Lecture Series, including an Artist's Talk (Ellen Roehne) and seminars offered by faculty award winners (e.g., Daniel Soodjinda; and Cathlin Davis). During Fall semester, the FCETL and FDC hosted a monthly Lecturer Coffee and Conversation, led by FDC committee member Jennifer Cooper of the Department of Biological Sciences. The FCETL provided logistical and financial support for the hosting of Safe Zone workshops through the year, with Dr. Vickie Harvey (Communication Studies) as the faculty lead.

The FCETL also hosted a number of workshops. In Fall and Spring the FCETL hosted and facilitated workshops focused on guiding untenured faculty through the Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) review process and preparation of the Working Personnel Action File (WPAF); additional workshops were hosted for Chairs and Departmental RPT committees, to ensure that reviewers are familiar with the policies and timelines guiding the process. The FCETL hosted two IDEA evaluation workshops, just prior to the administration period in the Fall semester. In February the FCETL partnered with Tim Held, Librarian to host two workshops focusing on Information Literacy. In March the FCETL helped facilitate two Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) Speed Infosessions which explored more affordable or free class materials that faculty may consider using in the classroom.

Gerard Wellman (Assistant Professor in Political Science and Public Administration) and Marina Gerson provided logistical support and co-facilitated a FLC focused on High Impact Practices (HIPs). Each of the 14 faculty (tenure track and lecturers) developed a HIP strategy to be implemented in a course the next academic year.

Additional workshops, focused on pedagogical use of technology, were hosted by the FCETL and offered by OIT partners Bob Koehler and Glenn Pillsbury. The FDC continues to appreciate the support OIT offers to faculty and particularly the warmth and flexibility with which both Bob and Glenn offer their expertise.

Thirty-two faculty members attended the annual Instructional Institute Day, sponsored by both the FCETL and the FDC and held on January the 24th. Elizabeth F. Barkley, PhD, a professor from Foothills College and author of numerous pedagogy books, gave a presentation and subsequent workshop entitled “Classroom Assessment Reconsidered: Promoting and Assessing Significant Learning.”

Instructional Support Mini-grants have been a cornerstone of the support the FCETL and FDC offer to faculty. In order to re-establish a cycle that allows faculty awardees to use the funds more expeditiously, the FDC moved the annual call for proposals back to the Fall semester. After reviewing all proposals, the committee recommended awarding 12 projects, committing \$5,861.99 in funds.

The FCETL and FDC also support the Elizabeth Anne B. Papageorge Award, awarded to a probationary faculty member primarily in recognition of excellent development as a teacher. The FDC reviewed and forwarded the call for nominations to the faculty. The files are reviewed and a recommendation made by the Leaves and Awards Committee.

Finally, the FCETL is assisting with the logistics of the 46th Annual Faculty B-B-Que, which be held Saturday, May 13th, in Teague Park. This is the second year in which the FCETL has taken on a role in facilitating this event.

The 2016-2017 academic year was a productive time for the FDC and every member of the FDC significantly contributed to its accomplishments, especially the FCETL Director Marina Gerson from the Department of Biological Sciences. Marina is committed to the success of the FCETL as evidenced by her leadership and support for the activities described in this report. I would also like to thank all the members of the 2016/2017 Faculty Development Committee: Austin Avwunudiogba, Jennifer Cooper, Marty Giaramita, Mandy Huang, and Anysia Mayer, Ex-officio members Marina Gerson, Bob Koehler, Jake Myers, and Stuart Sims. In addition I would like to thank Emy Barsley for her indispensable assistance and also thank Barbara Henry for her more than capable assistance during Emy’s leave.

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Christopher C. Bradshaw

Chair Faculty Development Committee 2016/2017

Assistant Professor of Management in the Department of Management, Operations, and Marketing