Faculty Success Training for Graduate Students

Now that the Graduate Student Expansion Project has been successfully launched into its first phase of bringing in over 100 students from Personal Financial Planning, Kinesiology and Sport Management, and Biological Sciences, a virtual launch and guided tour will take place with the Graduate School and OPA. Dean Sheridan and Dean Gaines have requested a training for the students who will be using the software for the first time, and OPA will assist by walking through the software.

The training has not yet been scheduled, but this should be the major event to kick-off bringing in students from all over campus.

Core and Multicultural Curriculum Survey Distribution

OPA began the Spring 2022 Core Curriculum data collection on April 19th. Although there were issues with the TTU email phishing filter, we were able to edit the message and send it without it being flagged by the system. OPA sent the data collection survey to 502 instructors and have received 15 completed surveys so far. Most responses come in during or after the final week of class, so we expect many of the responses to be submitted at that time. Earlier this year, we met with faculty from the Political Science department to work on a method for TAs to submit data to the course directors in order to minimize data duplication. We hope this process will be successful this semester and will be a model we can use with other large courses that have man sections. We also created a way for instructors to complete multiple surveys if they teach more
than one Core and Multicultural course. We will evaluate the effectiveness of this change and adjust the survey as needed for the Fall 2022 data collection. Most faculty members have completed the survey in under 10 minutes, but we want to continue to streamline the process and maintain an average of 5-10 minutes to complete the survey for 70% of all respondents. We also adjusted the survey response settings to allow faculty to save and come back to submitting their data later without recording their partial responses and locking them out of the survey. We will continue to work on the survey by monitoring responses, making adjustments during data collection, and planning for changes in subsequent semesters.

**OPA Coffee Breaks**

On Wednesday April 20th, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Education presented a Coffee Break titled, “A Matter of Trust: Conversations of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Classroom,” presented by Gencie Houy, Karen Alexander, and Amanda Holland. The presentation was part of a follow up to the Assessment Innovation Grant award the department received in 2021 for a project to ensure FCSE is exposing students to diverse cultures and creating culturally responsive educators. The presentation focused on using bibliotherapy to help future educators understand how literacy can be an outlet for students to work through problems and help them recognize they are not alone in their struggles.

The Coffee Break had 15 attendees and was recorded to include on our website.

**College-Level Peer Reviews**

We are happy to report that we have almost wrapped up another year of College-Level Reviews. This process gives departments the opportunity to have their annual Program Assessments reviewed by colleagues with similar academic backgrounds. This peer review gives
program coordinators applicable, knowledge-based feedback which is unlike OPA’s review process that ensures compliance with SACSCOC. The following colleges have completed their reviews:

- Arts & Sciences
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Graduate School
- Honors
- Human Sciences
- Media & Communications

The following colleges have not completed their reviews:

- Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
- Visual and Performing Arts (amended deadline for May 15th)

The feedback provided by faculty was overall very thoughtful and positive. OPA will assemble these comments and provide all Department Chairs with a copy of the reviews.

**TxAHEA 2022 Planning Update**

The Conference Planning Committee met this week, and we discussed the Association’s current progress toward the 2022 conference. Proposals are currently being evaluated, and we are beginning the process of building the conference program.