

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes
January 28, 2022

Members Present:

Courtney Meyers, Angela Lumpkin, Dominick Casadonte, Tara Stevens, Nancy Soonpaa, Karen Alexander, Lisa Garner Santa, Mitzi Ziegner, Suzanne Tapp

Members Not Present:

Ali Duffy, Patrick Hughes, Susan Tomlinson

Approval of Minutes:

Mitzi moved to approve the minutes from, November 19, 2021; Nancy seconded. The council approved.

Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarships Committee Report

Shane Blum gave a report about the committee's selection in December. They used \$8,960 of the available \$9,000 funding. There were seven applicants and the committee awarded scholarships to six applicants. The committee was interested in knowing if the applicants were receiving funding outside the scholarship and considered adding that to the selection process. However, they decided that the scholarships should be awarded based solely on the merit of the application. The committee requested that the review form in WizeHive match the wording on the application exactly to avoid confusion. Shane plans to chair the committee again next year.

TeMPO Program

Shane and Mitzi gave an update of this year's cohort. There were fourteen virtual participants in the fall. They met in groups of three for peer observations and the cohort met four times during the semester. At the wrap-up meeting, they each shared a quick teaching tip and a few of them were made into sharable infographics. Shane mentioned that he started using one of the teaching tips about self-reflection and the council asked if he could share those materials with them.

Chair Elect Nominations

There were no previous nominations for the chair elect position and the committee asked Lisa Garner Santa if she would consider. Lisa agreed. Angela moved to vote for Lisa as the new chair elect; Dom seconded. The council approved.

Executive Council Member Replacements

Courtney notified the council that Feruzan Williams left the university and that there is now a vacancy on the council. Feruzan represented the Rawls College of Business. Courtney also reminded the council that the Whitacre College of Engineering is no longer represented since Carla Lacerda left the university in the fall. The council selected Bob McDonald and Kay Millerick as Teaching Academy members who could serve as substitutes until the end of the semester. Courtney plans to reach out to both members to ask if they will consider.

Hidden Gems Recognition

The nominations will close on Monday, the 31st. There are currently eighteen submissions and Courtney encouraged the council to each nominate a deserving colleague.

Evaluating Teaching at Texas Tech Initiative

The team, led by Angela, Courtney, and Suzanne, met with the Provost and his communications director to present their work. They have received positive feedback from administration and hope to meet with the President soon. Courtney broke down the initiative into sub-committees: peer teaching observation/evaluation, self-reflection, student evaluations, defining teaching excellence, and department teaching plans. Courtney, Angela, and Suzanne plan to meet with all the committees to help create project goals for the year. Courtney believes that this is a strategic time to implement this initiative and she wants to look for ways to keep the momentum. The sub-committees are opened to any number of members and she hopes to have good engagement from the Teaching Academy. She noted the importance of presenting this initiative as non-punitive so faculty don't feel like they will lose autonomy. Angela noted the importance of emphasizing observation over evaluation and student perceptions instead of student evaluations. Lisa suggested offering some sort of mini TeMPO opportunity to show faculty the benefits.

Updates

The Advancing Teaching & Learning Conference

Suzanne shared that this year's conference will be virtual and features Dr. Kevin Gannon and Dr. Mays Imad. These two speakers are relevant and the virtual option allows the TLPDC to bring both together. The hope is that they will provide insight into the current educational climate and that they can offer ways to help us move forward.

The Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award

There are currently three applications and the online portal closes today at five. Kirsten Cook is chairing the selection committee meeting.

Adjourn:

Dom motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mitzi seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.