

## **Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes**

### **January 24, 2025**

#### **Members Present:**

Nancy Soonpaa, Jeffrey Harper, David Roach, Karen Alexander, Ameri Gurley, Suzanne Tapp, Belinda Kleinhans, Shane Blum, Cindy Akers, Katie Langford, Fanni Coward, Andrew Stetson

#### **Members Not Present:**

Rob Stewart, Charles Crews, John Masselli

#### **Welcome and Group Activity:**

Nancy Soonpaa led the council in a group activity called “Calm the Chaos” as an example of what instructors could do in class to get to know and support their students. Nancy read a prompt from one of the cards, which asked participants to reflect on ways to let go of stress.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Cindy Akers moved to approve the minutes from December 6<sup>th</sup>; Karen Alexander seconded. The council approved the December minutes.

#### **Teaching In Turbulent Times Initiatives**

Nancy would like to expand this initiative beyond the Teaching Academy and plans to meet with Suzanne to talk through ideas. Belinda suggested that the council could talk with departments who are developing a teaching plan and encourage them to consider including a component for faculty wellbeing.

Suzanne shared that Angela Mariani is leading an eight-week course for faculty on mindfulness-based stress reduction. This course meets online once a week and includes an individual time commitment. Applications will open next week and the course begins in February.

#### **Announcements**

Andy Stetson shared that the School of Music is starting to offer lunch hour concerts in the new recital hall and the first one is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Suzanne gave updates about the migration to RaiderCanvas. She noted that all material accessed from the last year and a half will be transferred. All older material should be downloaded by the instructor. The migration team will send out an email to faculty with more information and training dates. She also shared that instructional designers could present trainings to departments if desired.

Belinda Kleinhans notified the council that she will be leaving the university at the end of the semester and needs to step down as Chair Elect. The council members will consider nominating a new Chair Elect by April.

#### **Adjourn:**

Nancy adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Molly Jacobs.