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# Faculty Center Annual Report

## Division of Academic Affairs

Academic Year  
2014-2015



The 2014/2015 AY continued to be a highly productive year in the Faculty Center<sup>1</sup>. Over 546 different faculty members and administrators (an increase from last year where **450** faculty members attended events) participated in **102** functions, meetings and activities hosted by the Faculty Center during the academic year. Many faculty members participated in more than one event (**for a total of 2196 attendees**).

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that during the Spring 2015 semester, Dr. Elisa Grant-Vallone was on sabbatical leave. Dr. Veronica Anover and Dr. Marie Thomas served as interim co-directors during Dr. Elisa Grant-Vallone's leave.

### Progress Report on AY 2014/15 Goals

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#### *Major 2014/2015 Goals*

**(1) Host the NCHEA tri-campus symposium:** A combined effort of MiraCosta, Palomar and CSUSM, the NCHEA symposium on teaching was held January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Over 100 faculty from the three campuses attended and/or participated in the conference. Six faculty members from CSUSM gave presentations on teaching and learning.

**(2) Assure quality of online teaching and learning:** Ensuring high quality online education continues to be a priority for the Faculty Center which recently received its third grant from the Chancellor's Office on Quality Assurance. Thanks to these grants, the first Quality Assurance Peer Review Program, in its pilot form, took place during the Spring 15 semester. Sixteen online courses were peer evaluated using the QOLT instrument with the help of four QA (Quality Assurance) Faculty Associates and four IDS team members.

**(3) Continue to Better Integrate Teaching and Learning Activities:** With the assistance of Matt Atherton, who served a second year as Faculty Fellow for Teaching and Learning, we continued to create close collaborations with other key offices on campuses (the new Office of Undergraduate Studies, IDS, First Year Programs, Office of Service Learning and Community Engagement, and Office of Diversity and Educational Equity, Engaging Diverse Dialogues). We collaborated on numerous workshops and events over the year.

**(4) Create Summer Programming:** During Summer 2015, we will hold the second annual Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning, *Teaching as Reflection*. The Summer Institute will be a four and a half day event aimed at helping faculty to reflect on and innovate in their classes. Through a combination of presentations and hand-on activities faculty will learn about numerous techniques to help enhance their teaching. Participants will explore the idea of student reflection as a teaching tool. This will be done through the consideration of topics such as experiential learning and contemplative pedagogy. We have 15 faculty members who will participate in a 20-hour institute that will help them to focus on building more active learning components into their courses. It should also be noted that on May 27, Marie Thomas, Ranjeeta Basu, and Jennifer Jeffries conducted a full-day workshop, sponsored by the Faculty Center, on using contemplative practices in the classroom. Despite the fact that faculty were off contract, 52 people RSVP'd and 42 faculty actually participated in the workshop (including 5 faculty from our local community colleges). It is clear that well-scheduled summer programming will draw faculty.

**(5) New position: Faculty Center Associate Director:** This position was created to assist the Faculty Center Director to better integrate teaching and learning activities, such as the Teaching Expo, the NCHEA teaching workshops and workshops on High Impact Practices; collaborate closely with IDS, particularly on Quality Assurance for online teaching and learning excellence; manage the website; and participate in the Faculty Center Advisory Council monthly meetings.

**(6) Continue offering FLC on Cultural Intelligence:** The FLC continued its work on institutional level cultural intelligence projects working closely with Arturo Ocampo, AVP Diversity, Education Equity & Inclusion - University Ombuds. Dr. Fredi Avalos, the FLC lead and Faculty Fellow for Diversity also offered a Diversity Café to discuss the Diversity Mapping results.

#### *Faculty Learning Communities*

- **The Faculty Learning Community in Diversity and Multiculturalism:** This is the second year that Dr. Fredi Avalos led this FLC. The FLC held a day-long retreat, presented at the Teaching Expo and at a local conference, and worked on cultural intelligent pedagogy and practice.

- **The Faculty Learning Community for High Impact Practices:** Led by Matt Atherton, this FLC explored pedagogy to better engage today's learners in the learning process. Participants presented their projects at the Teaching Expo.
- **Faculty Learning Community for Writing a Journal Article in 12 Weeks (Fall 2014) and FLC-Power Writers (Spring 2015):** This was a highly popular FLC led by Martha Stoddard-Holmes. It was the second time that we offered this FLC and there continued to be a tremendous interest. Over the course of the semester, 13 faculty members worked on papers, chapters, and books, many of which were submitted in May or will be submitted over summer 2015.
- **The FLC for Palliative Care** started in Spring 2014 and, led by Sharon Hamill, continued until Spring 2015. The FLC met bi-weekly. The team had a 1/2 day retreat led by a holistic practitioner, to get a feel for palliative care methods. In Spring 2015, the FLC worked on the *What Gives Your Life Meaning Campaign* that took place in April. The campaign was such a success that the CSU Institute for Palliative Care has requested that the FLC submit a package with all the campaign's materials and strategies (for example, media coverage, advance directive workshops, how to integrate palliative care in the curriculum, community fair) to be used as a model at other CSUs wishing to hold a similar campaign. For example,.
- **The FLC for Service Learning** was led by Bianca Mothé the Director of the Community Service Learning Office during the Spring 15 semester. Participants worked on how to develop service learning courses and presented at the Teaching Expo.

#### *Teaching and Learning Activities*

- **Teaching EXPO** (highlighting the innovative work of our faculty 93 participants)
- **NCHEA Tri-Campus Symposium**
- **Preparing Future Faculty Workshops** (7 workshops for graduate teaching assistants)
- **High Impact Practice Workshops**
- **NBC Learn Training and Workshop**
- **Assessment Workshops Series (4 of them)**

#### *Ongoing Professional Development Workshops and Support*

- **Lecturer Orientation**
- **Lecturer Evaluation Training**
- **New Faculty Institute**
- **RTP and Sabbatical Workshops**
- **Professional Development Grants** (\$24, 582 was awarded to 44 faculty members )
- **Diversity and Social Equity Grants:** (\$3,500 was awarded to 7 faculty members)

#### *Cultivating Relationships*

- **Eleventh Annual Faculty Reception** (112 attendees)
- **Super STEM Saturday** (over 232 attendees)
- **Faculty Center Connections Program** (49 members participated in mentoring circles and were awarded \$4,900 in professional development)
- **Research Colloquium Dinners:** In Fall, Betsy Read, Ph.D. spoke about her research *The Pan Genome of Emiliania Huxleyi and the Hunt for Biomineralization Genes and Proteins*. In spring, Ed Price, Ph.D., spoke on the topic, *Technology in the Classroom: Salvation or Abomination?* These continue to be popular events and close to 60 faculty attended each one.

#### *Faculty Mentoring Program*

- **FMP Activities:** we hosted a range of group activities during the academic year: Orientation & Welcome Lunch for fall and spring, Coffee Cookie Klatches, workshops and conference opportunities, cultural

events, Year End Celebration (graduation) (attendance ranged from 3-133 protégés and faculty at each event).

- **Demographics Report.** This Academic Year, we served 133 protégés; 85 mentors volunteered their time and knowledge. Of the 60 of our graduating protégés, 47 graduated this Spring and 13 last Fall Semester.
- **Post-graduate Testing Scholarships.** We received 13 applications ( Fall 2014 (5) and Spring 2015 (7)). We were able to provide complete or partial support for the 13 applicants (\$2330). The Post-graduate testing scholarship will help our protégés cover the costs of the GRE, RICA, CSET, and CSET tests.

### *Unanticipated Opportunities for Advancing the Unit's and Division's Vision and Mission:*

- **New position: Lecturer Faculty Fellow:** We are excited to have been able to offer this position to Terri Metzger, Lecturer in the Communication Department. The role of this Faculty Fellow is to serve as a liaison between the Faculty Center and the Lecturers on campus. In addition, and through the Faculty Center, this Faculty Fellow offers assistance and guidance to lecturers. Teri Metzger published a newsletter for Lecturers in the Fall, Winter and Spring and held a new Lecturer orientation and WPAF training. Teri also created new website content focused on Lecturer faculty and maintained the Cougar Connections for Lecturers (a Moodle community).
- **The Faculty Center, along with other campus members, centers and offices, served in the Strategic Plan Task Force for the newly created Office of Undergraduate Studies and on the High Impact Practices Task Force:** the first Task Force worked to develop a 5-year strategic plan that will include a vision statement, strategic objectives to achieve that vision, and measurable goals. In addition, the Faculty Center Director served on the Graduation Initiative Steering Committee, also led by Dr. Formo.
- **Teaching and Learning Focus Group:** In collaboration with Dr. Dawn Formo, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, a Teaching Learning Focus Group was created to answer the question: "What is it that we hope every CSUSM college student experiences as a learner on our campus". From that question, four "wishes" or ideas were identified.
- **LGBTQA SafeZone Training:** With the help of the Pride Center and ASI, the Faculty Center offered a Faculty Safe Zone workshop in Spring 2015.
- **Sustainability Initiative:** The Chancellor's Office started this initiative this academic year and made funds available to faculty through the Campus as a Living Lab Grant Program (CALL). Dr. Catu Ratiu from Business was awarded funds for a course redesign focused on sustainable business practices.
- **Community Engaged Scholarship:** In collaboration with the Office of Community Engagement, the Faculty Center will be offering a faculty Learning Community on Engaged Scholarship.
- **Workshop on Contemplative Pedagogy:** A one day workshop on using contemplative practices in the classroom was held May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Forty-two participants attended this workshop. It is such a popular and interesting topic for faculty that next academic year the Faculty Center will offer a Faculty Learning Community on Contemplative Pedagogy.

### *2014/2015 Goals and Priorities*

- **Reach Faculty at Different Career Levels:** This continues to be an important goal for the FC; while we have worked hard to better reach lecturers and junior faculty, finding innovative ways to reach mid-career faculty continues to be an important goal. An FLC on mid-career faculty will be offered next academic year. It will be led by the Faculty Center Director.
- **Continue Focusing on Quality Online Teaching:** With the Associate Director and the Faculty Associates for Quality Online learning, work in this area will continue to be a priority for the Faculty Center.
- **Diversity Mapping data:** Continue offering workshops and information on the Diversity Mapping results and recommendations.

- **Veteran students:** As the number of Veteran students increase each year, consider offering workshops geared towards this particular student population.
- **FMP:** Continue to support the FMP and recruit more faculty to participate.
- **Continue to collaborate with Arturo Ocampo's office**