

Academic Planning Bulletin #25

Monday, April 14, 2008

Hello all,

It is hard to believe that we are already into exam week! As the semester comes to a close I want to thank each of you for your contribution to another very successful academic term, and to update you on plans to provide increased support for faculty development through integration into the Education Division.

Faculty Development: A Foundational Underpinning of a Teaching Institution

The Academic Plan approved in January 2005 affirmed our commitment to being a teaching institution and to our stated values:

- ❖ We believe students are our primary focus.*
- ❖ We believe in fostering a dynamic, accessible and supportive teaching and learning environment that prizes excellence and innovation. We value creative and critical thinking and the will to challenge and be challenged.*
- ❖ We believe that intellectual growth and exploration inspire well-rounded, responsible and contributing citizens. We invite everyone into the excitement and curiosity of learning.*

Commitment to our values and our goal of being a high quality teaching institution requires a strong emphasis on faculty development.

Faculty development needs have expanded with the greater curriculum complexity of degree and post-degree diplomas, the expanded use of instructional technology, the changing needs of students and greater turnover of faculty due to the retirement bulge. To increase our ability to address faculty development needs, responsibility for Douglas Development faculty and staff has been shifted to the Education Division. To some extent this shift will create little change as Douglas Development staff and faculty will continue to work with the College-wide Professional Development Committee to provide a broad array of quality professional development activities. Already, a very exciting program of professional development (PD) workshops and events has been developed for the May/June PD period. And although the budget shortfall has necessitated removal of two sections of workload for Peer FM, I have already met with the College-wide Professional Development Committee to begin discussion of how we can continue to provide this important professional development function.

*During the months of May and June, I plan to work with the Faculty Development Coordinators, the College-wide Professional Development Committee and members of VPAC to clarify the development of a **Centre for Academic and Faculty Development** that will integrate faculty development with other key academic initiatives, such as: scholarship of teaching and learning, curriculum development, scholarly activity and program review and renewal. The intent is to design a structure that emphasizes the importance of faculty development by linking it with key college-wide academic initiatives and making sure it has a high profile in the updated Academic Plan. Your thoughts about what should be included in a Centre for Academic and Faculty Development are valued and can be submitted to me directly or shared in the Faculty-based Academic Plan strategic planning discussions that will occur in May and June.*

Jan Lindsay,
Vice President, Education