

Report of AETL Meeting, August 28, 2008

19 Attending: Peter Beicken, David Bigio, Judith Freidenberg, Evan Golub, Jim Greenberg, Lily Griner, Denny Gulick, Frances Gulick, Trudi Bellardo Hahn, Maryann McDermott Jones, Ruth Lozner, Cindy Martin, Alison Olson, Leigh Ryan, Kaci Thompson, Mark Varner, Leah Waks, Sue White, Scott Wolpert

The following were the major items under discussion at the meeting:

1. Early there was a suggestion that AETL have a broad, major, umbrella theme for the year, with several strands. The suggestion was overwhelmingly approved by the attendees. The theme that was unanimously approved was:

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT – FACULTY ENGAGEMENT:

MAJOR STRANDS discussed substantively:

A. Forum on teaching by the Distinguished Scholar Teachers (DST): On the one hand, each DST gives a presentation to the campus related to his or her research field. On the other hand, they are all noted teachers. The suggestion was to discuss with CTE and the Associate Provost's office the possibility of AETL and CTE jointly sponsoring a forum featuring the DST focusing on issues related to teaching: differences in teaching different disciplines, differences in the way students in those disciplines learn, etc.

B1. Space for faculty: This topic, initially discussed last year, needs to be pursued. The focus includes: space, food, possible use of Rossborough Inn, potential connection with the East Campus. In preparation for meeting with Vicki Levy, with whom I had communication on this topic on Feb 4, 2008, a subcommittee was formed: Cindy Martin, Leah Waks, Scott Wolpert, Denny Gulick.

B2. Faculty engagement: In addition to space for faculty, which is seen as one important aspect relative to faculty engagement, what other issues should be addressed? It was suggested that perhaps a faculty survey should be launched. Who would like to be involved in this?

C. Faculty presentations of their research and/or collaborative work: If you have, or know someone on this campus who has, a potentially stirring message that AETL Fellows would likely really wish to hear, please let us know.

D. Student engagement: This was a topic broached during 2007-2008. It led to a focus group meeting of Fellows and students. Two Fellows asked specifically for a report of that focus group meeting. I wrote a draft report then, and will send it to you. Discussion should continue.

E. AETL function for new faculty: To what extent should, or could, the Fellows of AETL be involved in the orientation and potential mentoring of new faculty? Should there be a function co-sponsored by AETL and CTE? Appropriate contact suggested is Rhonda Malone. Subcommittee to work on the issue: David Bigio, Evan Golub, Mark Varner.

F. International focus on education: This topic emerged in 2007-8. The Administration is profoundly interested in it. We should address it.

G. Ipad technology for the classroom: Banneker Scholars are now receiving wireless Ipods that can play videos, surf the web, display pdf's, and either now or in the near future can serve as clickers. They have no phone, won't play power point. An issue: learning vs. multi-tasking. Another issue: How to use them optimally in academia? Subcommittee to look further into the issue, and perhaps promote a forum on it in Spring 2009: Evan Golub, Maryann McDermott Jones, and one other Fellow I need to contact. (See Evan's email message sent last night.)

OTHER ITEMS:

1. Retirees: A number of concerns have been voiced with respect to conditions (such as office space, etc.) placed on UMD retirees. If you would like to be on a committee to study this issue and make recommendations to AETL, please let me know.
2. The issue of what we expect students to know when they enroll in a course, and remember after the completion of the course – this topic was mentioned today (and also in Fall 2007) but not explored. It appears to be relevant to “student engagement.”
3. There are a few other issues that you have mentioned that did not arise today. This does not mean that they should not appear on the AETL agenda this year, just that they did not arise, perhaps because you did not attend. Please don't feel that those not discussed should either be withdrawn or are not worthy.
4. I have been asked what has happened to the resolution passed nearly unanimously by AETL last fall, whose title is: "Recognizing and Rewarding Faculty Excellence in Promoting Effective Learning."

I sent it to Provost Farvardin in Fall 2007, and I believe that it was sent to a Strategic Planning Committee. I made an inquiry in February; nothing had happened until then. I have heard nothing more. If you wish to make an inquiry, that would be reasonable.

5. Book Review Committee: Leigh Ryan reminded us that two of the 5 members of the committee have moved. (Still on the committee: Linda Aldoory, Marcy Marinelli, Leigh Ryan.) Two items: (1) If you would like to be on the Book Review Committee, please write Leigh – lr@umd.edu. (2) If you have a book to recommend, please write a review and send it to any member of the Book Review Committee.
6. AETL Webpage: It needs to be updated. Kaci Thompson has offered to assist.
7. Any suggestion for speaker (not necessarily research) is welcome.
8. Finally, I am set to try to institute a new online meeting schedule definer. It is being used successfully by the campus Senate, and by some departments. I will try to get it working very soon, in time to schedule an Academy function somewhere near the middle of October.

Happy holiday weekend to you,
Denny Gulick, 8-29-08