

September 19-20, 2012

ITEM 156-2019-R0912

Center for Faculty Excellence - Montana State University Bozeman

THAT

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University Bozeman to establish the Center for Faculty Excellence.

EXPLANATION

In AY 2011-12, the Provost established an Office of Faculty Development, located within the Office of Academic Affairs, to create and implement a vision and mission for enhancing faculty professional excellence at the University. An interim director was appointed to lead this process and to begin offering programs for the faculty on a range of topics that fully span Montana State University's tripartite mission of teaching, research, and service. The proposed *Center for Faculty Excellence* would establish this mission and programming on a permanent basis.

The mission of the Center for Faculty Excellence is to support the professional enhancement of all faculty (tenure and non-tenure track) and across all career stages. Support is provided in the areas of teaching, discovery, outreach/service, leadership, and work/life integration. The Center aligns with and reinforces the mission and core themes articulated in Montana State University's nascent strategic plan in all endeavors. Objectives of the Center are to:

- Offer workshops, seminars, discussion groups, mentoring opportunities, and grants to support professional development in teaching, research, and service,
- Emphasize two approaches: breadth - onetime activities on many topics, and depth - multiple ongoing activities on a specific topic for faculty,
- Facilitate relationships and connections among faculty and serve as a clearinghouse to connect people with shared interests,
- Promote interdisciplinary conversations and work,
- Strive to make activities interactive, inclusive, authentic, holistic, and supportive, and
- Continually assess needs and interests of faculty.

During the past academic year (AY11/12), the Office conducted 70 workshops and discussion groups with a total of 1,346 participants. These participants represented all colleges and many administrative areas as well. All academic areas are expected to benefit from the Center. Presenters of the workshops included the interim director, other expert internal faculty, administrators, professional staff, and three external speakers. Some of the most popular workshops during AY 2011-12 were Creating the Flipped Classroom, Authenticity in Teaching, Dealing with Academic Misconduct, Indian Student Achievement, Developing Outreach Strategies for Grant Proposals, Designing Active Learning Spaces, Ways to Foster Undergraduate Research, Tips for Writing NIH and NSF Grants, and a number of sessions on teaching with technology.

The Center will continue the delivery of high quality programs with a focus on state-of-the art and best practice topics. The Center will coordinate the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, Innovative Teaching Award, Advising Award, Faculty Development Awards, and Instructional Innovation Grants.

The Center will also continue the highly successful DEAL (Developing Excellence in Academic Leadership) program.

The Center will be guided by an advisory committee consisting of faculty representing all colleges and key administrators to set direction for the unit, recommend and prioritize topics for workshops, and assist with making recommendations on several campus awards.

The Office of the Provost has provided space for the Center and the Interim Director will report to the Associate Provost. The Interim Director is an associate professor from the Department of Education with specialized education in adult and college teaching. A part-time program coordinator and an academic technology specialist, both of whom currently hold positions in the Office of Academic Affairs, provide administrative and technical support to the Center.

Funding for the Center for AY 2012-13 is \$142,969 from state appropriated funds. This funding currently includes the salaries for the interim director, the academic technology specialist (.5 FTE) and operations.

The University of Montana has an Office of Faculty Development and it is located in the Office of the Provost. Their mission also includes all areas of faculty life. Initial collaborations between the two institutions began this past spring and plans are being made for future partnership and alliance.

Nationwide, extensive faculty development programs are found primarily at larger institutions and most focus upon enhancement of teaching. The expansion of the scope of this Center to include all areas of faculty life to drive transformational advances in teaching, research, and service, and their integration is viewed as highly innovative by experts in the field.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments