

MSS Spring 2018 Committee Report

Committee Name: Teaching and Learning

Committee Chair: Bridget Diamond-Welch

Date of the Report: 5/8/2018

Sessions or programs offered by your committee at the annual meeting (2018).

We offered the CoTL certificate (discussed below). There were 25 sessions co-sponsored or offered by CoTL. Those specifically offered by committee members include: Teaching toolkits How to Engage Students in Online Teaching Preparing Undergraduate Students to Present at MSS and Beyond Hearing and Learning from Our Students Aggression in the Classroom Teaching Immigration Issues with Online Learning Gender and Violence

Main issues and agenda items discussed at committee meeting.

1. Sessions for next year to include: Online teaching session – Valentine, Innovative pedagogy – Ting, Hearing and Learning from Our Students -- Carlene, Meaning of Violence in the Classroom – Brian, Teaching in the Post Trump Era (Again) -- contact people who did it in 2018 (Aurelian), Teaching from Perspective of the Other – Lindsay, Bias in Teaching Evaluations – Lindsay, Queering your theory class – Lisa, Concealed Carried in the Classroom – Caleb, Faculty free speech outside of the classroom – Lindsay, Community Engaged Learning -- Lisa & Aurelien, Adjunct teaching -- Carlene, Supporting first generation – Carlene, Unique challenges for graduate teachers -- Doug
2. Teaching certificate -- We discussed thinking about how to make this a completely online process. Several individuals volunteered to work on subcommittee for that purpose. The outgoing chair discussed the issues with getting the subcommittees to do work between meetings and encouraged involvement of those that sign-up.
3. Contributing to the strategic plan -- Besides offering the certificate, the CoTL does not contribute to great chunks of the plan.

Outgoing chair had tried to communicate with the editors of TSQ about having a special edition (inclusion of more of these is in the strategic plan) of the journal on teaching. Another idea she presented was to have a teaching note in special editions (e.g. How to teach this article that was just published?). She never heard back. Committee is interested in continuing to pursue this.

Diamond-Welch also asked committee members to review the strategic plan prior to the meeting to discuss how else we could contribute. There were no other suggestions at this time, but the committee is aware of the plan and considering how to contribute more actively.

4. We also spoke about a teaching award. We created a (new) subcommittee to pursue this as last year's committee was not active. Awards -- Brian chair, Brad, Kate & Lisa Tasked with finalized the award Solicit nominations Evaluate applications
5. Grants -- The outgoing chair had tried to push the committee to looking at applying for an MSS grant to do a special session or workshop. There was no response. This year, we set up a subcommittee to explore this (Stephen & Carlene)
6. There was a request to create a teaching database that includes what resources are out there (e.g. where there are teaching certificates). Doug volunteered to look into making such a database.
7. Finally, we discussed turning the chair position into a two year position. The current chair (Diamond-Welch) lacked access to institutional memory as the prior drives were not passed down (they were given to next year's chair at this meeting). She expressed that she had to rely heavily on MSS staff to do the work of the committee. Having a

chair for at least two years would lessen some of these issues as well as allow many efforts to be followed through by a chair. The committee voted to support this. Brian McQueen who will be chair at MSS in 2020 will also serve in 2021.

How did committee work relate to the strategic plan?

Describe Activity 1.

We utilized the sessions offered by CoTL and worked with MSS staff to identify other sessions that could be utilized towards the certificate. This resulted in twenty-five (25) sessions participants could chose from to attend the five (5) required for certification. Diamond-Welch worked with MSS to create a paper copy and final list of sessions. MSS staff integrated the certificate into the program and the app.

Activity 1. Identify the specific objectives from the Strategic Plan that are/were addressed by Activity 1.
Strategic Direction 5: Provide & Facilitate Professional Development Across MSS Membership Objective 1: Establish & Implement certificate plan

Assessment of the success of Activity 1 in relation to the Strategic Plan objective.

We awarded the following certificates: • Bradly J. Zopf, Carthage College • Peter Self, Minnesota State University, Mankato • Anne Groggel, Indiana University Bloomington • Sydney Hart, Wilbur Wright College • Sarah E. Frank, University of Wisconsin-Madison While there is some success, there is room for improvement. The committee has created a subcommittee responsible for contacting all session organizers to notify them they are part of the certificate and request that they advertise the certificate in their sessions. Unfortunately, there was a similar committee last year which failed to respond to requests from the chair. It is hoped that this will be more successful in 2019. Further, the committee will look at how to make the process entirely online through creation of QR codes (or other ideas). We hope this also increases participation.

Describe Activity 2.

Strategic Direction 4: Publicize, Monitor & Enhance the Quality of TSQ Chair Diamond-Welch reached out to TSQ to discuss a special issue on teaching or to include articles on teaching in some issues. For the first suggestion, she argued that CoTL could provide some of the issue editors. For the second suggestion, she suggested to do special pieces where the journal asked teachers in particular areas to take a work being published and write a short piece on "How to Teach" that article. There was no response from TSQ. CoTL is interested in pursuing this idea.

Identify the specific objectives from the Strategic Plan that are/were addressed by Activity 2.

Objective 1a: Plan special issue, recruit/solicit manuscripts, reviewers, audiences Objective 2: Solicit ideas for innovation in content

Activity 2. Assessment of the success of Activity 2 in relation to the Strategic Plan objective.

There has been no movement from TSQ on these suggestions.

Are there specific resources you need to meet goals for the coming year?

I do not think so. There is discussion about applying for a grant. I do imagine that would not occur until 2020.

Will your committee be seeking funds from the board in the next fiscal year?

No

Is your committee interested in having the Chair complete a 2-year term?

Yes

Do you have nominations for the Board to fill positions on your committee (they must be MSS members)?

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Additional comments or concerns:

There should be a way to propose a panel that can have people apply to be on that panel. There is an insularity to how panels are now formed. I want a panel (say on Teaching Tool Kits) and the idea is that I want a wide variety of people on the panel. The only way I can submit that panel is if I come up with the names of people to put on it. I can't just put a call out to MSS members to contribute or sit on it. This may change as we become more of a presence on social media -- but is something that is quite frustrating.