

2004-05 Annual Report of the Adelphi Faculty Senate Committee on Teaching and Advisement

Committee members during 2004-05: Lawrence Hobbie (Biology), chair; Cynthia Demetriou (Academic Services), secretary; Eloise Bellard (Library), Richard Belson (Social Work), Mieke Caris (FCPE), Christin Cleaton (University College), Sue Greenfiel (Nursing), Patrick Kelly (History), Ruth McShane (College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office), David Parkin (Chemistry), Henrietta Pearlman (Learning Center), and Susan Spencer (Learning Disabilities).

The committee met four times in the fall and three times in the spring: September 20, 2004; October 4, 2004; November 1, 2004; December 13, 2004; January 24, 2005; February 23, 2005; and April 19, 2005.

In 2004-2005 the Teaching and Advisement Committee carried out its mandate to work for good teaching at Adelphi by organizing teaching workshops, brown-bag luncheons, and by political action. We organized four teaching workshops and one forum during the year. The first workshop on October 20, 2004, entitled "Teaching skills of highly effective teachers", featured panelists Maryanne Hyland (Business), Esther Kogan (Education), and Sal Primeggia (Sociology). These three outstanding teachers shared their techniques and ideas on teaching. The second workshop, on November 3, 2004, was entitled "Teaching students with specific learning disabilities." Susan Spencer of the Learning Disabilities Program presented strategies for teaching students with learning disabilities. The third workshop, on November 29, 2004, was entitled "Teaching students how to write research papers". Presenters Michael Matto (English and Writing Center), Tom Diamante (Business), and Carol Diakow (Biology) described how they guide students in a stepwise fashion through the researching and writing processes. On February 14, 2004, the committee sponsored a forum discussion entitled "The place of teaching at Adelphi: how much weight is, and should be, given to teaching in tenure and promotion." Panelists included Jean Winter (Nursing and FC RTP), Henry Ahner (Provost's Office). The fifth workshop, on April 20, 2004, covered "What can psychology teach us about teaching?" Sue Petry (Psychology), Jerry Gold (Psychology), and Rachel Kaufman (student) were panelists. The workshops, our most visible effort, represent we believe a significant contribution to increasing campus discussion and sharing of good ideas about various aspects of teaching. Videos and associated materials (e.g. presenters' handouts) are accessible on the committee's Web page (<http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/Teaching/>).

We organized two brown-bag lunches in the fall, one with Provost Marcia Welsh and one with Associate Provost Les Baltimore, and one in the spring, with Dr. Deborah Ramirez of the Student Counseling Center, who discussed dealing with disruptive students. We thank these administrators for participating in our discussions of teaching and advising.

Our committee discussed, approved, and brought to the full Faculty Senate a resolution that course descriptions and syllabi of previous-offered courses should be posted and available to students to aid them in course selection. The Senate adopted the resolution.

Hobbie is coordinating with the Information Technology Department to ensure that this resolution is implemented. Technical difficulties in dealing with the many formats in which syllabi are submitted have prevented immediate implementation.

The committee coordinated with the Office of Academic Services to oversee advising. The committee developed a set of guidelines for academic advisors, essentially a set of “best practices”, and will bring them to the Senate in 2005-06 for discussion and, hopefully, approval. The committee also has put together, with the assistance of the Faculty Center for Professional Excellence, a Web page that includes a variety of sources of information useful for faculty advisors (<http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/Teaching/#Advising>).

In the spring, the committee solicited faculty volunteers willing to have their classes observed by other faculty so all can learn more about teaching. More than 30 faculty volunteered, and a list has been posted on the committee’s Web page.

In academic year 2005-2006 the committee plans to continue its efforts to promote quality teaching and advising at Adelphi.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Hobbie
Chair, Teaching and Advisement Committee