

2007-08 Annual Report of the Adelphi Faculty Senate Committee on Teaching and Advisement

Committee members during 2006-07: Jean Harris (Health Studies), chair; Lawrence Hobbie (Biology), Les Baltimore (Academic Services), Richard Belson (Social Work), Jenine DeMarzo (Health Studies), Astrid Palm (FCPE), Elizabeth Cohn (Nursing), Patrick Kelly (History), Ruth McShane (College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office), Henrietta Pearlman (Learning Center), Janet Cohen (Learning Disabilities), Cindy Arroyo, Miriam Peper-Sanello (Education), Justyna Widera (chemistry), Anita Frey (education), Alice Pennisi (education).

The committee met on the following dates: September 20, 2007, October 10, 2007, November 14, 2007, December 12, 2007, February 6, 2008, February 27, 2008, April 2, 2008 and one is scheduled for May 7, 2008.

In 2007-2008 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. Attendance was taken at all committee meetings and minutes were recorded. This information is available from Jean Harris, committee chair.

Workshops:

October 30, 2007, "Helping Students Transition to Academic Independence." Moderated by Jean Harris, the panelists Jonna Coombs (Biology faculty), Kitty Tong (student worker from The Learning Center) and Carol Phelan (Disability Support Services Program) discussed issues for students transitioning to academic independence and offered strategies to aid the process.

November 28, 2007, "Student Perspectives on Good Teaching." Student panelists presented their perspective on what constitutes good teaching and fielded questions from the faculty.

February 14, 2007, "The LOVE of Teaching." Elizabeth Cohn, Nursing, prepared a statement and presented examples of educators who "love" what they do. She followed this with round table discussions among those in attendance.

April 30, 2008, "Everything Your Students Wanted to Know About your Assignments But Are Afraid to Ask" by Michael Matto, English and Director of Writing Programs. The workshop focus is on what students need to know to do well on the assignments, but faculty tend to overlook, or assume they already know.

Brown Bag Lunches:

October 16, 2007, "Issues of Advisement." We discussed a variety of issues that arise during advisement and how student participation in the advisement process varies across campus.

February 5, 2008, "Distractions and Disruptions: Working with Difficult Students." Faculty discussed the myriad ways instruction can be interrupted, and the fact that each faculty member defines distractions and disruptions differently. A summary is available on the Teaching and Advisement website at <http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/cta/docs/brownbagdistractions2-5-08.pdf>

April 9, 2008, "I'll Show You Mine if You Show Me Yours: The Value of Peer Observations." Faculty reviewed the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Evaluating Teaching Excellence" and discussed their experiences with peer observations. A summary is available on the Teaching and Advisement website at <http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/cta/docs/brownbagpeerobservations4-9-08.pdf>

Other Activity:

The committee co-sponsored a workshop with the Provost's office "Diversity in the Classroom" with Dr. Joseph Trimble of Western Washington University on February 22, 2008. It was canceled due to inclement weather that closed the university.

One of our members, Liz Cohn, continued posting "Teaching Tips" throughout the academic year. They continue to be well received by the faculty.

Jean Harris continued working with the Information Technology department to fulfill the resolution regarding online syllabi adopted by the Senate in 04-05. It is expected to be implemented for Fall, 2008.

Jean Harris worked with the FCPE to update the Teaching and Advisement website. Committee archives, teaching resources and related information is available at <http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/cta/>.

As Teaching and Advisement Committee chair, Jean Harris was a member of the Faculty Center for Professional Excellence Advisory Committee and attended meetings during 2007-2008. Major items discussed over the year included transitioning from Blackboard to Moodle, changing from SNAP survey tool to the web-based Survey Monkey, consideration of changing from End Notes to the web-based Ref Works, hiring of a new media technologist in the FCPE, presentation of a three year technology plan for the university.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Harris
Chair, Teaching and Advisement Committee