

Annual Report
THE FACULTY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING
Academic Year 2017-2018

Prepared by Bonnie Angelone, Director

July 2018

This report explains the guiding vision for the Faculty Center, highlights the Center's activities, and lists activity data.

Mission Statement: The Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning creates appropriate connections across campus in order to facilitate individuals' growth as engaged university citizens and serves faculty, supporting offices, and the institution in pursuit of teaching, scholarship and creative excellence. The Center's three areas of activity are 1) induction and ongoing support of junior faculty; 2) professional development focused on research-based teaching practices, learner-centered teaching, reflective pedagogy and academic career progress; and 3) institutional change relevant to teaching, scholarship and creative activities. The Center encourages self-directed inquiry through various modes including programs, learning communities, discussion groups, and conference participation.



New professional development opportunities for faculty

This year we purchased access to live Webinars produced by Magna publications. In doing so we have created an opportunity for faculty (and other campus staff) to gain access to new cutting edge research related to teaching, assessment, evaluation and much more. Since January we have received live connection as well as on-demand access to a total of 27 webinars. The faculty center has hosted in person a total of 10 of these. From that beginning in January until the end of our subscription in December faculty have the opportunity to attend 4 live webinars in person to obtain a professional development certificate from our office. To date we have had 10 faculty earn a certificate and many more are very close to doing so. Over 160 people have signed up to attend a live webinar and our attendance rate has been about 60% overall.

Fostering Connections and Partnerships

Since I made it a point to meet as many people as possible from different campus entities, I have been able to think about future plans and how to create offerings to further support faculty in a collaborative way. Because a working campus community is the first important step to supporting faculty, strong partnerships is a must. A University undergoing such rapid and hefty change requires community solutions. The Faculty Center recognizes itself as an entity that works across divisions, programs and academic departments to put necessary structures in place.

The partnerships and connections that we have fostered have proven to be particularly valuable as we work to provide opportunities for our faculty. Our work with Rowan Online has led to another successful year of the 8-week Faculty Online Teaching course with a total of 145 faculty completing the class to date (up from 95 in last year's report). The summer session is in process with another 20

individuals. Also, we have worked diligently to develop a workflow plan and set of materials for the peer observation process for online courses. The final product is ready for Fall 2018 and includes the *pre-conference form, a 5-page guide for conducting online observations and peer observation report form* that is embedded into the Rowan Online Portal. Our partnership with Campbell Library and the Office of Proposal Development has allowed us to learn more about the research needs of our faculty and allowed us a seat at the table to discuss ways to ensure faculty's research needs are met at each point of the research process.

As we see ourselves as a bridge for faculty to gain access to resources that can help them to be successful, projects and results like this will be invaluable. Connections with The Office of Social Justice, Inclusion and Conflict Resolution and The Academic Success Center has offered information important for our student success, which is the core reason we are all here. In addition, we began work with the President's fellow on a campus wide diversity initiative with initial offerings of Implicit Bias Training. This has led to a partnership with team members of the Revolutionizing Engineering Diversity (RevED) grant to offer campus wide diversity and inclusion opportunities.

Recommendation: Complete work on a Diversity and Inclusion campus wide Certificate program



Ongoing Programs and Sponsorships

- Faculty Learning Communities
- Mid Semester Focus on Teaching & Learning
- Faculty Online Teaching Certification
- Mentoring
- Online Student Survey for Teaching Effectiveness
- Book Club(s)
- New Faculty Orientation
- Rowan Teaching Connection (formerly RILED)

2017-2018 Collaborations and Initiatives

- Rowan Online - peer observation instrument for online classes
- Affordability Task Force - Textbook Affordability Program (TAP) grant implementation
- College of Business – assistance in reviewing and choosing award winner for their Innovation in Teaching in Award
- President's fellow – Diversity programs

Awards and Grants
LAX Award: 21 applications / 13 Awards
Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award: 4 applications / 1 award
Frances S. Johnson Junior Faculty Innovative Teaching Award: 12 applications / 1 award
Teaching with Technology Grant: 9 applications / 3 (1 solo & 2 joint winners) awards

Provost Asst. Prof./Instructor Travel Grants \$25,000 awarded to 18 individuals
Wall of Fame: 15 Advising / 23 Teaching



Faculty Learning Communities

The Faculty Center proudly supported the work of five active FLCs for 2017-2018:

1. Junior Faculty: Sarah Ferguson & Bonnie Angelone

This FLC functions as a collective support group to help junior faculty through the challenges of their early years at Rowan through network building across the Rowan community. Some topics include: 1) Teaching – active-learning strategies, student interaction, engaging students; 2) Research – how to stay on top of research, how to secure grants; 3) Work and life balance – tips on how to be good at teaching, research, and service, but still have time for family; and, 4) Tenure & Recontracting – where to find information.

2. Teaching Strategies to Improve Student Engagement: Kathryn Behling & Gonzalo Carrasco

We plan to discuss a variety of teaching strategies that can be used in many academic disciplines to foster improved student engagement, deeper understanding of coursework, and development of lifelong learning skills. Some strategies we plan to discuss are Problem-based learning (PBL), Contextual Learning, Inquiry Based Learning, Hands-on Team-Based Learning, The Pause Procedure, Think-Pair-Share, ConcepTests and Personal Response Systems or Clickers.

3. Professors and Parents: Kaitlin Mallouk

This learning community will address some of the needs and concerns of faculty who are also parents (especially parents of young children). Members will explore issues of individual concern, such as how to stay on track professionally while raising children and how to attain work-life balance, and issues related to the larger institution, such as Rowan's maternity/family leave policies, childcare, etc.

4. Cultural Competence in Teaching: Adam J. Kolek

This FLC will facilitate a discussion of cultural competence and culturally responsive pedagogy. Through our discussions, we will reflect on the attitudes, beliefs, and cultural frames of reference of ourselves and our students, and will explore how to best utilize the diversity of our classrooms to improve our students' educational experience. The FLC will also function as a place where members can share successes and discuss classroom issues. In addition, we will work to share our growing knowledge with the wider university community by sponsoring and participating in workshops and trainings.

5. Using Technology to Enhance Student Engagement: Helene Sisti

At the start of every class, students can be seen scrolling through their smartphones. How can we as faculty leverage media to enhance student engagement? Can Instagram be used in a way that is educational and relevant? Here, we will explore tools such as Blackboard, Poll Everywhere, and Google Classroom. The goal is to use them in the classroom and report back to each other on what works and what doesn't. Together, we'll create a fun and supportive community with the goal of developing best practices for technology in the classroom.

6. Interdisciplinary Holocaust and Genocide Studies: Jenny Rich

The field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies is often siloed, with academics intentionally “staying in their lane.” This FLC seeks to bring together faculty from across disciplines, including Medicine, Law and Justice, English, Engineering, Education, Sociology, Communications, Performing Arts, and anyone else interested to consider how the norms of society are perverted during genocide. By looking at some of society’s most vexing issues from cross-disciplinary perspectives, we will raise new questions for ourselves, and also for our students.

Faculty Learning Communities	#
1. Jr. Faculty	25
2. Teaching Strategies to Improve Student Engagement	20
3. Professors as Parents	9
4. Cultural Competence in Teaching	9
5. Using Technology to Enhance Student Engagement	7
6. Interdisciplinary Holocaust and Genocide Studies – NO FALL/SPRING MEETINGS	



Mid Semester Focus Groups (MSF)

The MSF on teaching and learning is a mid-semester evaluation technique that provides instructors with rich and meaningful feedback from their students regarding the learning environment in a course. This program is organized by our Assistant Director, Michele Pich. The process is entirely voluntary and data are confidential. We have continued to add 2-3 consultants per semester, which allows us to increase our capacity to provide more MSF's per semester. We conducted 21 MSF's in the Fall of 2017, and 17 MSF's in the Spring of 2018. During the FY 2017-2018, we trained Carol Thompson and Pat Barbro. They joined our 8 other veteran MSF consultants. Along with providing valuable feedback to help faculty members improve their teaching, and boost their end-of-semester teaching evaluations which can improve their teaching effectiveness. Some of our participants have reported benefits from MSF in the following ways:

“The MSF has been great for gauging how my students are feeling in my class and allowed me to make changes to improve their learning in real time. I also get to meet other faculty around Rowan’s campus during the process.”

“It gave me feedback that I couldn't obtain through a survey which allowed me to make modifications to the class to improve the overall environment.”

“It gave me honest and meaningful feedback. Students felt comfortable expressing themselves.”

“It is always helpful to have another set of eyes/ears in the classroom.”



Online Student Survey for Teaching Effectiveness

This program is coordinated by the Faculty Center's Assistant Director, Michele Pich in collaboration with IRT. It serves all of the colleges within Rowan University. Some departments choose to use this as

their official required evaluation tool, while others give their faculty the option to use this tool in addition another assessment instrument, or for optional enrichment purposes.

Semester	Number of courses	Number of faculty members
Fall 2017	1433 (up from 1366 in F2015)	701 (up from 683 in F2015)
Spring 2018	1389 (up from 1281 in S2016)	660 (up from 654 in S2016)



Faculty Online Teaching Certification (FOT)

The FOT had another successful year in providing an important professional development opportunity as Rowan increases online offerings in every department. There is a reported average from our “faculty students” 40 hours of participation time with this 8-week course. With 145+ instructors graduating thus far, the course has generated an estimated conservative total of 5,800 hours of professional development. Mid-term and end-of-course survey data are very positive, as are the word-of-mouth recommendations that keep the course enrolled at capacity. We could not have met faculty demands for such training were it not for Carla Sbrana, our part-time educational technologist who has been instrumental in course development and teaching.

Recommendation: Continue to work to market this course with Rowan Online outside of Rowan for a fee so it can be revenue generating. Develop a second course.



Title IX

With the change in leadership in the Office of Equity and Diversity and Title IX coordination we have lost steam with the Title IX faculty group. However, with Michele Pich’s work on the Title IX Repository, an ongoing collection of academic work by Rowan faculty, staff, and students, is available in the library. Any Rowan employee or student can access full-text journal articles, conference presentations, and classroom materials through the secure area. Title IX related research contributions include a wide range of topics, including: sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual violence, institutional response, fostering healthy relationships, cyberbullying, and communication strategies. In addition, the use of Rowan Digital works has grown with all of the efforts to promote it (us along with Division of Research and the Library).

Recommendation: The Faculty Center should re-engage with the Title IX leaders and attempt to revitalize the faculty group to envision ways to continue the campus culture change toward increased awareness and knowledge about sexual assault.



Rowan Teaching Connection (RTC)

RTC offered their annual Professional Development Conference entitled “One Student, Many Hats.” Overall there was a great response to all of the sessions. In addition, they held a spring mini conference: Great Idea for Teaching Students – G.I.F.T.S. which, proved to be extremely informative and helpful.

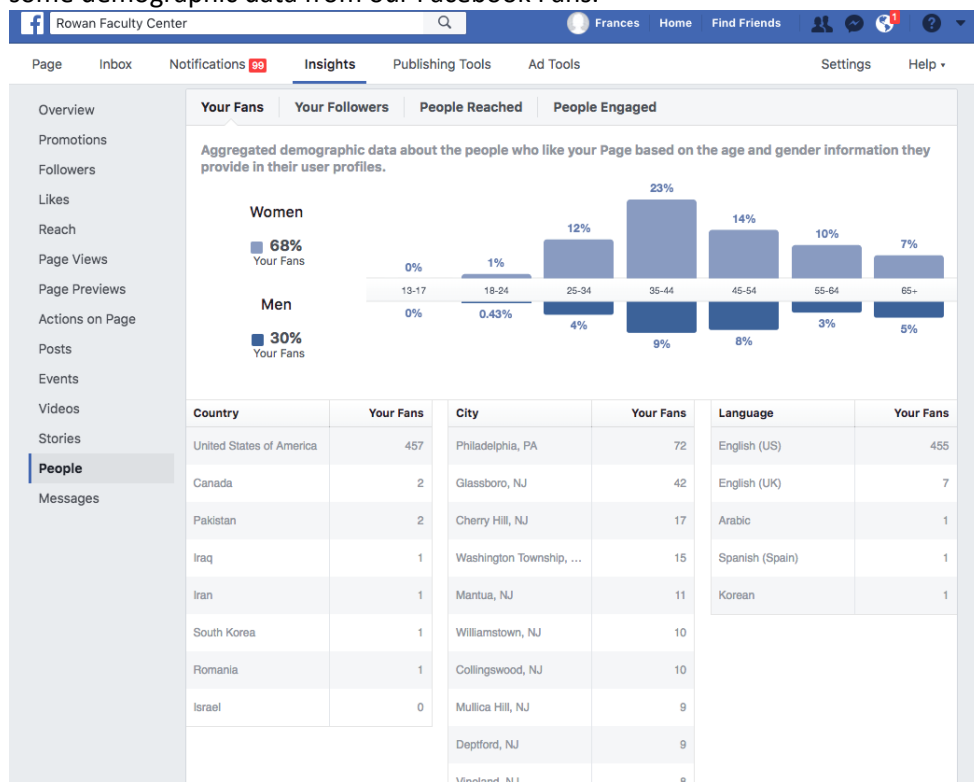
Session	# present	Average overall rating (out of 5)
10/27/2017: One Student, Many Hats (Guest speaker, Stephen Fleming)	24	(no eval.)
10/27/2017: Relevance & Application of Student Development Theory for Faculty Engagement	24	(no eval.)
10/27/2017: Building Bridges Across Gape in English Acquisition (Julie Malsbury)	24	(no eval.)
10/27/2017: Student Work and School Life Balance (M. Toni Buckley)	24	(no eval.)
4/6/2018: RTC mini conference: Great Idea for Teaching Students – G.I.F.T.S.	25	4.9



This year's personnel members and other DATA

Facebook

Currently, we have 491 followers on our Facebook page. This summer June-August our posts were mostly centered around renewing or improving teaching and we reached from 5-977 depending on what was posted and the day. This past year we continued with our posting themes have been Management Mondays, Teaching Tip Tuesdays, Web Wednesdays, Adjunct Thursdays, and Food for Thought Fridays. Attached are a couple of screen shots of some demographic data from our Facebook Fans. Below is some demographic data from our Facebook Fans.



2017-2018 Faculty Development Programs and Sponsorships

University Senate Workshops	Date	Attendance
University Senate Tenure & Recontracting	10/6/2017	9
Tenure & Recontracting Info. Session	2/6 & 7/2018	8
University Senate T&R packet design (NEW)	12/4/2017	25
University Senate Promotion	10/25/2017	13
University Senate Sabbatical	6/21/2017	13
Tips for conducting Peer Observations (NEW)	5/3/2017	13
Teaching Conferences		
Temple University Teaching Conference	1/10/2018	19
West Chester University Teaching Conference	1/11/2018	18
Faculty Online Teaching Certification “FOT” (Carla?)	Summer 2017	12
	Fall 2017	10
	Spring 2018	21
Mid-semester Focus	Fall 2017	21
	Spring 2018	17
Annual Wall of Fame “WOF”	4/26/2018	60
New Faculty Orientation 2017	8/2017	35 new hires
Other Professional Development Initiatives		
RTC: Conference—One Student, Many Hats	10/27/2017	24
RTC: G.I.F.T.S.	4/6/2018	25
F.C. Session: Recognizing Student in Distress	10/20/17	4
Support and Attendance		
• Access and Inclusion Week		
• Title IX conference		
• Rowan Online Symposium (presented)		
Provost Luncheons		
Associate Professors	9/27/2017	12
New Tenure Track Hires	10/25/2017	20
Full Professors	12/6/2017	12
Newly Tenured	2/28/2018	15
Department Chairs	3/28/2018	16
Instructor Rank	4/18/2018	9
Technology Related Events		
Webinar: How to Create a Successful Graduate (Engineering)	10/12/2017	11
Academic Technology Week - helped with promotion and food	5/22/2018	FC staff (2)

Webcast – Flipping the Classroom	12/7/17	8
Book Clubs		
RU Reading 2017		5-10 people at each
<i>Sixth Extinction</i> Book Talk Discussion Groups	8/10/2017	
	8/11/2017	
	8/14/2017	
	8/15/2017	
	8/16/2017	

Advisory Board 2017-2018

Faculty Center Advisory board members serve in a role to provide thoughts and expertise related to the centers programming and future strategic plans.

Mark Berkey-Gerard	Journalism (CCCA)	5 th year
Kelly Duke Bryant	History (CHSS)	5 th year
Elisabeth Hostetter	Theater & Dance (CPA)	5 th year
Alison Krufka	Biological Sciences (CSM)	12 th year
Kaitlin Mallouk	Mechanical Engineering (COE)	4 th year
Kevin Dahm	Chemical Engineering (COE)	2 nd year
Jennifer Nicholson	Marketing & Business Info Sys (COB)	5 th year
Carol Thompson	Educational Services & Leadership (CoEd)	2 nd year

Liaisons 2017-2018

Faculty Center liaisons are an interdisciplinary crowdsourcing co-operative that provides expertise and serves communication needs.

Accounting & Finance	BUS	George Romeo
Art	CCA	Jan Conradi
Biomedical Engineering	ENG	Mark Byrne
Biological Sciences	CSM	Courtney Richmond
Chemical Engineering	ENG	Kevin Dahm
Chemistry & Biochemistry	CSM	Yang Yang
Civil & Environmental Engineering	ENG	Yusef Metha
Communication Studies	CCA	Joy Cypher
Computer Science	CSM	Vasil Hnatyshin
Ed. Services and Leadership	ED	Kara Ieva
Electrical & Computer Engineering	ENG	Linda Head
English	HSS	Marci Carrasquillo
Foreign Languages & Literatures	HSS	Marilyn Manley
Geography & Environment	HSS	Zack Christman

Health & Exercise Science	BMS& HP	Doug Mann
History	HSS	Kelly Duke Bryant
Journalism	CCA	Mark Berkey-Gerard
Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Ed	ED	Xiufang Chen
Law & Justice Studies	HSS	Joe Johnson
Library	LIB	Michele Kowalsky
Library - CMSRU	CMSRU	Sharon Whitfield
Management & Entrepreneurship	BUS	Joel Rudin
Marketing & Business Info. Systems	BUS	Jennifer Nicholson
Mathematics	CSM	Uma Thayasivam
Mechanical Engineering	ENG	Tom Merrill
Music	PA	Davide Ceriani
Nursing	CSM	MaryEllen Santucci
Philosophy & Religion	HSS	Ellen Miller
Physics & Astronomy	CSM	Tabbetha Dobbins
Political Science & Econ	HSS	Natalie Reaves
Psychology	CSM	Gerald Hough (Jerry)
PR & Advertising	CCA	Alison Novak/Olga Vilceanu
Radio, TV & Film	CCA	Keith Brand
Sociology & Anthropology	HSS	Maria Rosado
Theatre & Dance	PA	Tom Fusco/Liz Hostetter
Writing Arts	CCA	Drew Kopp