PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 26, 2010 – Minutes

Present: Katie Paschall, Chair Myra Walters John Connell

 Jane Charles Eileen DeLuca Kathia Miller

Katie Paschall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00. The minutes were read. No additions or corrections were required. John Connell made the motion for approval and Myra Walters seconded. The minutes were approved.

An animated discussion ensued with regard to the NISOD nominating process. More nominations and more participation from faculty and students were especially sought. Each committee member supported the idea of giving the awards to winners in the Barbara B. Mann Performance Arts Hall at the Fall Convocation instead of the luncheon. Committee members also agreed that more publicity for the awards process was warranted. Alternative methods to publicize the award in place or in addition to email were advocated. Jane Charles and others suggested the publicity should be district-wide, and could include flyers, posters, electronic signs, televisions in the library, as well as the Edison website and social networking sites. It was further suggested that libraries on all campuses could serve as collection points for the nominations. Jane and Eileen suggested a plaque in the library on all campuses. Each year a metal tag addition to the plaque could be made.

The Committee as a whole expressed a preference for selecting “outstanding professor(s),” rather than basing the nomination on one of four areas upon which the faculty is evaluated. The nominating individual would not be required to write a letter in support of the candidate. Instead, candidates would be notified by the PDC of their nominations, and it would then be incumbent upon the nominees, if interested, to submit documentation (as in part or all of the faculty portfolio) for review by the PDC and ultimately to result in recommendations by the PDC.

 One professor expressed reluctance to announce the contest in classes because it may be seen by the students as self-serving. However, flyers could be posted in each classroom and professors could then answer student questions.

Once the winner(s) are selected, the PDC expressed a desire for announcing the winner(s) in email to administrators, faculty, staff and students, at commencement, and on Edison’s social networking pages.

Katie shared a Collier flyer for outstanding faculty or staff member. The student government is in charge of this ward and is entirely student driven. Committee members from other campuses were interested in doing something similar on their campuses. Jane volunteered to speak to student government leaders on Lee and Charlotte.

The committee discussed its role in advising the TLC. Some dissatisfaction was mentioned. Many members felt as though the PDC no longer had a role or that there was no follow through on advice or suggestions. Pam Mangene was given much praise for the hard work she does for the TLC, but the committee did not want to lose its connection to the process. It was suggested that Pam attend the PDC meetings. It was agreed that the PDC should submit list of TLC suggestions before the end of the semester for use in the fall. Some members noted that workshops were being cancelled. Others noted that attendance was not optimal. Presenters went to a great deal of trouble to prepare and only two or three people would attend. Some faculty may not realize the importance or relevance of a workshop. It was suggest that department chairs should encourage their faculty to attend workshops.

Katie questioned the number of workshops. It was then suggested that we tie the workshops to certain learning outcomes. This would limit the number offered but place importance on them. Because of time and schedule issues, maybe the same workshop could be offered more than once in a semester. Eileen reported that those sessions that provide books and/or make and take assignments do well. Those should be encouraged. Myra suggested bringing in speakers from outside the college to generate enthusiasm and support.

Kathia Miller moved the meeting be adjourned. Eileen DeLuca seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Connell