The Ohio State University Academy of Teaching
Executive Council Meeting
May 20, 2011
9:30–11 a.m.
Room 211, Youkin Success Center

Present: Caroline Breitenberger
          Joseph Donnermeyer
          Alan Kalish (10:50 a.m.)
          Scott Levi
          Jennie Williams
          Mohamed Yousif

Preliminary Review of the 5th Annual Mini-Conference

• 77 people registered; 48 people attended
• Jennie handed out a report from the online survey she administered at the conclusion of the conference.

6th Annual Mini-Conference

• Members discussed the following topics:
  o Diversity in the curriculum
  o Assessment of teaching
  o Teaching in semesters
• Members decided to pursue the theme of teaching in semesters and hope to incorporate the themes of assessment, diversity, and course design into the sessions.
• Next year (2012) will be the 20th anniversary of the Academy of Teaching’s founding by President Gee, so we might try to explore that theme as well.
• A brief discussion explored the idea of flipping around the timing of the members’ reception and the mini-conference since attendance is usually higher at events in Autumn and lower in Spring, but because of planning needs, we decided to keep them as usual.
• We must continue to consider ways to increase attendance at the mini-conference. We should target TAs and new faculty for the conference.
• The timing should coincide with the Board of Directors’ spring meeting.
  o Post-meeting note: The board will meet May 17-18, 2012

Founder’s Award

• Yousif and Joe nominated the Alumni Association Board of Directors as the recipients of the next Founder’s Award. Yousif proposed inviting Archie Griffin or the current chair of the board to accept the award at the mini-conference. We will formalize a process for collecting additional nominations and making the selection when we reconvene in Autumn.

New Members of the Executive Council
• We have two openings on the Executive Council starting next year.
• Caroline nominated Richard Blatti to return for a second term. Jennie will email Richard to ask his acceptance of the nomination.
• Yousif nominated Scott Levi to join the Executive Council.

Talking About Teaching

• Jennie and Joe are coordinating an effort to send a copy of Talking About Teaching, Volume V to every member of the Academy.
• Joe has a list of people from whom to solicit essays for Volume VI. These include the GATA winners, new Academy of Teaching members, the presenters from our last mini-conference, and alumni who may write about their memory of a good teacher at OSU. He would also like essays about how to be a good TA for field trips, labs, and recitations.

Joe Donnermeyer’s Notes from Meeting with Venkat Gopalan and Mandy Simcox

• Venkat and Mandy suggested that the Academy become involved in providing criteria for teaching excellence to departments for use when searching for new faculty. Alan agreed that he and his staff could work on putting something like this together.
• They also suggested we implement roundtable discussions/ “tea rooms” – small discussions that might be done on a department or college level. Members discussed implementing regular lunches with the Academy. Constraints on ordering food for recurring meetings may hinder our progress with this idea.
• Members agreed to plan a Winter Reception for academic administrators at which they will discuss promoting teaching excellence in their departments. Alan and Joe will spearhead this endeavor and invite Venkat and Mandy to join their team.

New Faculty Orientation

No report.

Fall Reception

The Fall Reception will be held on Monday, October 17 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Dr. Mike Boehm will be the speaker.

Post-Meeting: Fiscal Update

We have $300 accessible to us in our development fund account. We have $1,110 total funds in our account, but they are not yet off the 180-day holding period.

Next Meeting

We will meet again near the end of the summer.

Tabled: Discussion of Liza Tohr’s proposal to create a new faculty award.