

Minutes of the Western New York Faculty Development Group of the Western New York College Consortium

September 28, 2012

Meeting Site: Library Conference Room (Russo Conference Room)
McGrath Library, Hilbert College
7900 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075

Attending: Mark Hijleh, President (Houghton College), Santo Rizzo, Vice President (ECC), Charles Ernst, Secretary-Treasurer (Hilbert College), Jayne Swanson, Executive Board Member (Alfred University), Danyelle Moore (Niagara University), Patricia Coward (Canisius College), Sonja Brown Givens (Empire State College), Eileen Tutak (Bryant and Stratton), Francine Palermo (Bryant and Stratton College), Linda Larkin (Jamestown Community College), Janice L. Herchmer (Villa Maria College), Peggy Yehl Burke (St. Bonaventure University), Joseph Ziokowski (Genesee Community College), Lynn Horne-Moyer (Medaille College)

I. Meeting Convened

Welcome & Acknowledgments

1. After an 8:30-9 a.m. continental breakfast provided by the consortium's Hilbert host, followed by the presentation of Dr. Sanford Shugart, President of Valencia College, Orlando, FL, in the Swan Auditorium (9-10 a.m., with Q&A, 10-10:30 a.m.), the meeting of the WNY Faculty Development Group, with fifteen in attendance, was convened at 10:45 a.m. by FDG President Mark Hijleh.
2. On welcoming those assembled and acknowledging the contributions to the day of Santo Rizzo, Charles Ernst, and Steve Harvey, Executive Director of the WNY College Consortium, Mark introduced himself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves as well.

II. Review of Executive Committee Meeting (May, 2012) & Strategic Plan Progress

A. Executive Committee Membership, Terms, Vacancies

What the Executive Group is working toward: A sustainable leadership structure

Executive Structure

- (1) It was acknowledged that officer positions had previously been established—president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, & two board positions, with one needing replacement, as elected board member Karen Taylor had subsequently obtained employment outside the WNY area.
- (2) The Executive Group supported Eileen Tutak of Bryant and Stratton to fill the rest of Karen's term of office.

B. Communication Platform

1. How to Continue Development of Communications Within Faculty Development Group (FDG)
 - a. The Linked In group is available as a discussion forum to accommodate communications between FGD members.

- (1). The question was raised whether it should be solely internal or also external.
- (2) If open to faculty, more persons would benefit from such communications.
- (3) It was noted that not all prefer to use Linked In

b. WNY College Consortium Website as another basis for communication.

- (1) What of a blog or wiki on the website as a discussion forum?
- (2) Those website functions are not currently available.
- (3) Still, it is understood that more communication is needed.

2. Measurable Outcomes, as established by board member Jayne Swanson

As given on meeting agenda:

- (1) Conduct two meetings per school year
- (2) Obtain 75% representation of member institutions at each meeting
- (3) Hold one major event per school year
- (4) Obtain 95% representation of member institutions at each event
- (5) Maintain WNYCC FDG social network site
- (6) Obtain 100% representation from member institutions at site

C. Discussion of Spring, 2013, Meeting/Event

1. It had originally been suggested that one of two meetings each school year should occur in the fall (late Sept./early Oct.) and the other in the spring (late March/early April)—in particular for Spring, 2013: Friday, April 12, or Friday, March 22, unless problems arose with those dates.
 - a. Audio recordings of these meetings or teleconferencing had been considered.
 - b. A commitment had been made that an enrichment component be included at the meetings.
2. A suggestion regarding a bigger spring meeting for faculty developers & faculty gradually gave way to the reverse: that the spring event be more circumscribed (just FDG and some others), but used as a springboard for an even bigger event in the fall, including faculty, as it was thought that more people could be available to attend in the fall, given the number of conferences held in the spring.
 - a. A spring meeting might focus on the difference between modern and postmodern students, as discussed by Dr. Shugart.
 - b. A local person might serve as a main speaker, whether or not a keynote speaker
 - c. This event/meeting could provide a model or at least a warm-up for the bigger fall event.

D. Discussion of Fall, 2013, Meeting/Event

1. Originally, when considering the spring meeting, the name of Tom Fentor, a previous speaker proposed again for the spring, resulted in several lines of commentary that changed the focus of the discussion to consideration of a fall meeting event.
 - a. Proposing Tom Fentnor, treating the world of work and learning, would have underscored a presentation stressing qualities employers want but cannot seem to find, as students are too often underprepared.

- b. Whether or not life learning issues should also be included, it was felt that local persons should also be present representing employers, industry, perhaps involving a panel of same, and perhaps including student representation.
- c. If faculty are invited, practical considerations/best practices should be included, not just theory, with opportunity for breakout sessions, including breakfast/lunch amenities.
- d. Also to be considered is the relation between faculty and students, seen as a generational variable, given the different assumptions current among both, as pointed out in Dr. Shugart's talk, leading to student distrust in the classroom and also in the workplace (with one of Dr. Shugart's slides perhaps indicating a crossover point).

Needed are faculty, faculty developers, employees, and students with a focus on relation-building within particular sessions.

- e. A larger picture would consider local economy drivers, not just specific employers, to determine what local employers need, perhaps involving the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

Perhaps a panel treating liberal arts concerns and another focused on the needs of human resources would help to establish a useful dialogue.

- 2. As previously noted, the discussion morphed, at some point, into considerations for a larger *fall* meeting or event, with talk of a smaller spring meeting/event grouped under C.1 and C.2 above.
 - a. With introduction of the question of a registration fee, the fall event—based on the foregoing discussion—began to assume the features of a conference.
 - b. Grant funding support?—Oishei funding has been used for now.
 - c. How might such a conference differ from other conferences?—incentives to attend?
 - (1) Could conference be statewide, given contacts with other NY schools?
 - (2) Could WNYCC link up with other state consortia or regions—Rochester, Finger Lakes, Southern NY?
 - (3) What of the SUNY school collective?
 - d. One approach might be to invite a team from each school involving a registration packet.
 - e. Such conference planning might result in attendance from far-flung campuses.
- 3. As time ran out, the FDG President concluded with the observation that what is important is to keep the conversation going.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was informally adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Ernst, FDG Secretary