March 10th, 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

How to Create a Faculty-Driven Cost Effective SoTL Center

Philip Dunwoody  
*Juniata College*, dunwoody@juniata.edu

Jay Hosler  
*Juniata College*, hosler@juniata.edu

Kathy Westcott  
*Juniata College*, wescott@juniata.edu

David Drews  
drews@juniata.edu

Michael Boyle  
boyle@juniata.edu

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Recommended Citation

Dunwoody, Philip; Hosler, Jay; Westcott, Kathy; Drews, David; and Boyle, Michael, "How to Create a Faculty-Driven Cost Effective SoTL Center" (2011). *SoTL Commons Conference*. 41.

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HOW TO CREATE A FACULTY-DRIVEN COST EFFECTIVE SOTL CENTER

PHILIP DUNWOODY
JAY HOSLER
KATHY WESTCOTT
DAVID DREWS
MICHAEL BOYLE

Supported by a grant from...

The Teagle Foundation
Where is Juniata?

- Juniata College is a small, private, residential, liberal arts college in central PA.
  - 1600 students
  - 100 faculty
Organization

• Development of the SoTL Center
• Structure of the SoTL Board
• Overview of SoTL Center activities
• Overview of the costs $$
• Discussion
Discussion

• What are potential obstacles or sources of support for SoTL at your institution?

• Would the Juniata SoTL model work at your institution?

• How else could we evaluate the impact of SoTL on our campus?
Development of the SoTL Center

• “I believe that although small liberal arts colleges claim to care about teaching, the majority only give lip service to the idea.” Michael Reder, Connecticut College

• We submitted a grant to establish a SoTL center.
  • 4 faculty members (3 psychologists, 1 biologist) and supported by the administration
  • $150,000 for a 3 year grant
    • Year 1: planning and developing our center mission
    • Year 2: establishing the center location and activities to support the mission
    • Year 3: continue SoTL programming and share our SoTL model
Structure of the SoTL Board

- Rotating 3 person SoTL board
  - 3 year commitment

- Director Designate - 1 course release
- Director - 1/2 time teaching release for the year
  - Duties: Programming, Consulting, SoTL Project
- Past Director - 1 course release

- Over time, this model should help distribute SoTL expertise across campus as different members of the campus community rotate on and off of the SoTL board
- Members of the board have been from biology (2), psychology (3), and mathematics & computer science (1)
Development of the SoTL Center

• SoTL Center Mission

• The goals of the center are to increase:
  • open and honest discussion of issues related to teaching effectiveness at Juniata
  • awareness of the literature on evidence-based practices in education at Juniata
  • scholarly teaching at Juniata
  • the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) at Juniata
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

- Brown Bags
- Learning Communities (broadly defined)
- Summer SoTL grants
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

• Brown Bags
  • Biweekly
    • Literature reviews
    • Mentoring sessions, planning a SoTL project
    • SoTL Center sponsors lunch
  • Participation, Attendees
    • 2009-2010: 27-40, M=32. 21 out of 22 departments
    • 2010-2011: 26-35, M=31. 21 out of 22 departments
    • Over 2 years, every department was represented
  • Participation, Presenters
    • 2009-2010: 8 out of 22 departments
    • 2010-2011: 7 out of 22 departments
    • Over 2 years, 13 out of 22 departments presented
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

- Sample semester: Fall, 2010
  - 9/8: A Discussion of Course Portfolios (Scholarly Teaching)
  - 9/22: Quantitative reasoning, the CLA, and MA103 (SoTL Project)
  - 10/6: Self-assessment; Promoting student ownership of course performance (Scholarly Teaching)
  - 10/20: Teaching On-line (Scholarly Teaching, SoTL Project)
  - 11/3: Testing a measure of Psychological Critical Thinking (SoTL project)
  - 11/17: Perceptions of classroom incivility; Views from both sides (Scholarly Teaching)
  - 12/1: Assessing Undergraduates’ Comprehension of Geologic Time (SoTL project)
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

• Learning Communities
  • Wine, water, soda & chips provided

• Teaching Excellence-
  • 8-11 attending (year one)
  • 8-18 attending (year two)
  • Topics: student accommodations, tenure process, time management, campus counseling, campus politics

• Spring, 2009: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Kathleen McKinney
  • 15 faculty, staff, and administrators
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

- Spring, 2010: Making Teaching and Learning Visible, Bernstein, Bernett, Goodburn, Savory
  - 14 faculty members

- Course Portfolios
  - 17 faculty from 10 departments have begun creating course portfolios
    - 6 Full, 6 Associate, 5 Assistant
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

- **Summer SoTL grants**
  - Designed to encourage the development of SoTL projects
  - $1200. ½ now, ½ at completion
  - Commitment to present at a SoTL Brown Bag

- Summer 2010, 9 applications (10 different faculty), 2 applications withdrawn, 3 awards
  - The Value of Comics in Education, Biology
  - Improving Students’ understanding of Geological Time, Geology
  - The Enhancement of Critical Thinking & Quantitative Reasoning Skills in an Introductory Math Course, Math

- Summer 2011
  - $4,000
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

• Presentations & Publications 2006
  • 2 SoTL presentations
  • 0 SoTL related publications

• Presentations & Publications 2007
  • 3 SoTL presentations
  • 0 SoTL related publications

• Presentations & Publications 2008
  • 3 SoTL presentations
  • 0 SoTL related publications

• Presentations & Publications 2009
  • 6 SoTL presentations
  • 1 SoTL related publications

• Presentations & Publications 2010
  • 5 SoTL presentations
  • 1 SoTL related publications
Overview of SoTL Center Activities

• Survey administered in August, 2009 to assess faculty…
  • Knowledge of SoTL literature
  • Use of SoTL literature to inform teaching
  • Attitudes about SoTL and campus support for SoTL
  • Production of SoTL

• We have helped bring numerous speakers to campus including: Michael Reder, Milton Cox, and Daniel Bernstein
Overview of the costs $$

- 2010-2011 Budget (w/o personnel)
  - Brown Bags $3000
  - Learning Communities $2600
  - Summer SoTL grants $3875
  - Office/instructional $500
  - Travel $550
  - Sum $10,525
Overview of the costs $$

- 2010-2011 Personnel Budget

SoTL Board Course Releases
- $\frac{1}{2}$ time course release = half of total compensation
- 2 course releases = 2 adjuncts
- Sum = $52,000
Discussion

• What are potential obstacles or sources of support for SoTL at your institution?

• Would the Juniata SoTL model work at your institution?

• How else could we evaluate the impact of SoTL on our campus?