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UAF Faculty Development, Assessment, and
Improvement (FDAI) Committee
Year End Report 2013-2014
Committee members:

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reaching out to established and new faculty, awarding travel awards, and inviting renowned speakers
for guest presentations, she has engaged in the following activities:
 Joy has worked with the faculty community of UAF to initiate 6 self-organized faculty learning
communities that stayed active throughout the year and focused on topics such as Flipped
Classrooms, Blended Learning, Communicating Across the Curriculum, Enhancing Cross-Cultural
Knowledge, Communication, and Education in STEM, Utilizing Online Resources and Technology in
Classes Targeting Rural Students, and Teaching Strategies for Early Career Faculty. Each learning
community had a designated facilitator and met throughout the academic year. More information
can be found at http://www.uaf.edu/faculty_development/flc_ay13-14/.
 The Office of Faculty Development facilitated trips to a large number of faculty development events
in the state and nationwide. Through Joy’s support, several faculty members were able to attend
events such as the Teaching Professor Teaching Technology Conference, Atlanta, GA, the Lilly West
Conference on College and University Teaching and Learning, Newport Beach, CA, and the Alaska
Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, AK
 In order to improve communication between researchers from different departments and campuses
of UAF, OFD together with the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) organized a “Faculty Schmooze”
event. The event was attended by faculty from diverse scientific backgrounds and from both UAF
main campus and satellite campuses. During the activity, faculty were paired in a “speed-dating”
scenario and were given 7 minutes to communicate their research ideas to each other. Every 7
minutes, pairs were switched such that by the end of the event, all faculty had communicated with
all other participants. Most faculty were excited by the concept and it is likely that it will be
repeated in a similar form in the near future.
 Joy organized a large number of faculty learning opportunities throughout this academic year.
Organized events addressed problems such as Stress and Time Management, Classroom Assessment
Techniques, Faculty Mentoring, Grant and Scholarly Writing, Communication In and Outside of the
Classroom, and several presentations on the use of technology in education. All activities were
widely announced also through the OFD website (http://www.uaf.edu/faculty_development/Nnl

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the electronic course evaluation study in AY 13/14 by assessing 4 of the 12 e-course evaluation systems
more closely.
Starting in September 2013, the electronic course evaluation workgroup, which included several FDAI
members, invited 4 vendors to provide somewhat longer and more detailed demonstrations of their
system capabilities. The four second-round demonstrations included:
 Evaluation Kit: Online Course Evaluation and Survey System (9/20/13)
 eXplorance: Blue / Evaluations (10/11/13)
 Gap Technologies: Smart Evals (11/1/13)
 University of Washington: IAS Online (11/22/13)
 Debrief and Discussion (12/6/13)
Based on the review of these four course evaluation systems and based on all the information gathered
throughout the two stages of the course evaluation study, the study group formulated the following
three part recommendation that was submitted by the FDAI to the Faculty Senate for approval:
 Part 1: The Electronic Course Evaluation Workgroup recommends that UAF should move to an
electronic course evaluation system: Paper-based course evaluation systems are costly to deploy,
retrieve, and store; they demand large amounts of personnel time; data-analysis is inefficient;
refining questions to make them more meaningful is difficult; and security is problematic. In viewing
the system demonstrations and questioning the presenters, the workgroup was mindful that
electronic course evaluation systems present their own versions of some of these same challenges
and introduce others. Throughout the process, we considered as separate questions: Should UAF
move to an electronic course evaluation system? Is there an electronic course evaluation system
that adequately addresses concerns and offers enough advantages to make a transition worthwhile?
After analyzing the capabilities of state-of-the-art electronic course evaluation technology and
assessing the pros and cons of electronic means of course evaluation, the workgroup recommends
that UAF should move to an electronic course evaluation system.
 Part 2: The Electronic-Course Evaluation Workgroup recommends eXplorance/Blue Course
Evaluations: Based on an initial analysis of 12 e-course evaluation systems and a consecutive more
detailed assessment of 4 finalist systems, the workgroup determined that -5(rk)11p eXplorhnake/alu12(e)9( )] TJ
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c. Development of a Mission Statement for the FDAI Committee
In order to better organize committee assignments and committee work, the Senate Administrative
Committee asked all Faculty Senate committees to revise or approve their committee mission
statements or develop such a statement should it not be available. As only little information was
available in the Faculty Senate Bylaws about the FDAI’s mission, the FDAI committee spent time during
AY 13/14 to develop a comprehensive and concise mission statement. This mission statement was
submitted to the Administrative Committee for review and is currently pending approval.
d. Connecting with UAF’s eLearning and Distance Education Department