CHAIRS MEETING

October 17, 2017

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
AGENDA

- Academic Computing
- Course Descriptions
- Assessment
- Common Time
- Announcements
  - Dependent Care Pilot
  - Sustainability Across the Curriculum
  - First Year Seminars
  - United Way
- Planning time
Academic Computing

- Exciting & fun changes!
  - Skill-based support model
  - Media specialist hire
  - Software purchases 2018-19 AY
Course Descriptions

• Course descriptions appear in the University Course Catalog and in WesMaps.
• They are a historical record frequently referenced by students as an amendment to their transcripts.
• Course descriptions should be no longer than two paragraphs.
• Course descriptions should describe the general content of the course not the class assignments.
• Class assignments may be listed in additional notes at the section level. These do not appear in the catalog but do appear in WesMaps.
• Use active voice when possible.
• Refrain from using “this course” in the description, as the phrase is implied.
• Abbreviations should not be used, though topic specific acronyms are acceptable.
Assessment – last year

• Met with
  • Faculty (17 chairs, 3 departments, 20 other faculty)
  • Students (25 juniors)
  • Administrative staff

• Projects
  • NEASC report
  • Library website
  • Mental health professions survey
  • Grants
Assessment – this year

• More meetings with chairs and students
• Written and oral expression
  • With Sean McCann
  • With Gil Skillman
• Integrative Learning Project
  • Focus on reflection and making connections
  • FIST 250 & 350 – collaborative cohorts of students engaged in self-assessment
• Senior interviews/focus groups
Common Time

Opportunity for chairs to provide feedback on how the common time pilot is working in your departments.
Dependent Care Pilot for Faculty Professional Development

• January 2018 – June 2020 pilot
• ACAF will reimburse faculty for up to $400 annually of documented and approved dependent care expenses that result directly from professional development activities off campus such as participation in conferences or travel for research
Wesleyan’s Sustainability Goals

• Aim to build a culture of sustainability (knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors) at that students carry with them when they graduate by drawing connections between disciplines.

• Start with exposing more students to sustainability by integrating sustainability into already-existing courses.
Sustainability Across the Curriculum in Context

• 2001 First Sustainability Across the Curriculum

• Program began at Emory (Piedmont Project)

• 2016 Wesleyan’s Sustainability Action Plan launched
  • Wesleyan’s SATC program begins
  • Workshop & 4 Sustainability courses offered - more to come

Sustainability course integration initiatives at 274 US/Canadian Colleges and Universities
Sustainability Across the Curriculum Program - 2018

- Workshop (January 23, 2018, 9 am-2:30 pm)
- Seminar (4 sessions in February- April 2018, dates/times TBD)
- Course Module Integration (2018-2019 academic year)

- Financial Support, 10 faculty participants receive $500 toward course integration & research
- Applications due – mid-November. For more information contact Jen Kleindienst (jkleindienst@wesleyan.edu) or Suzanne OConnell (soconnell@wesleyan.edu)
First Year Seminars
United Way Campaign 2018
Deadline: Tuesday, October 31
Co-Chairs: Laura Patey & Octavio Flores

United Starts With YOU! Wesleyan Starts With WE!

ADVANCING EDUCATION, INCOME, HEALTH AND HOUSING
THANK YOU!

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 11:50-1:10 in PAC 001
Planning for Search Requests

• Opportunity to connect with colleagues to plan for faculty searches that may overlap.
• Priority will be given to requests that meet the needs of multiple departments or programs.