May 2005

Academy of Distinguished Teachers
UPDATE

Members of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers engage in many and varied projects and activities during an academic year. I thought it would be useful to share with you a summary of Academy activities during the past 12-18 months (includes activities from September 2003 through April 2005).

The Status of Teaching in Merit Assessment Working Group
Over the past year, the Status of Teaching in Merit Assessment working group has created and begun to implement a project to explore the policies and procedures for awarding merit pay on the University’s four campuses. Academy members Linda Miller Cleary, UMD, and Vernon Cardwell, UMTC, along with Karen Zentner Bacig, are coordinating this project.

The first phase of this project consists of an online survey regarding policies and procedures for awarding merit pay. This survey was created and piloted with ADT members who were former department heads or chairs. An invitation was then sent to all current department heads and chairs during Fall 2004. The response rate to the survey was 45.86 percent. Currently, the survey data are being analyzed. A preliminary report from the survey will be available in summer 2005. The next phase of this project will be to conduct focus groups or interviews with faculty across the four campuses to follow up on issues raised in the survey responses.

The Relationship Between Teaching and Research
Co-conveners Jeff Ratliff-Crain, UMM, and Tom Isbell, UMD, along with Karen Zentner Bacig, facilitated a number of discussions during 2003-2004 regarding the need to provide better access to research opportunities information to the University’s undergraduate students. The discussions coalesced around the creation of an online research opportunities clearinghouse. During Fall 2004, a newly created Task Force on Undergraduate Research was created and both Jeff and Tom are serving on this committee, along with other ADT members. All of the data gathered, along with a summary of this working group’s activities related to the online research opportunities clearinghouse, were passed along to the Task Force chair, Peter Hudleston, for consideration.

Student Needs Assessment of Faculty Roles
During 2003-2004, the Twin Cities Steering Committee (TCSC) had a number of discussions regarding what role students want faculty to play in their lives. This discussion led to a conversation that TCSC members Laura Coffin Koch and Pete Magee, along with Karen Zentner Bacig, had with Craig Swan, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, and Jerry Rinehart, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs. From these conversations, the idea emerged to conduct a project in which ADT members would be trained to conduct focus groups with various groups of students to elicit their thoughts regarding the qualities of positive interactions with faculty.
This project received IRB approval and in January 2005, a small group of ADT faculty participated in a day-long focus-group facilitator training. These faculty plan to begin conducting focus groups with both students and faculty during spring semester 2005, continuing into fall semester 2005. The results of these focus groups will be presented via papers and conference presentations, and used to inform best practices for faculty with undergraduates. A graduate assistant has been hired to assist with this project.

**Technology Enhanced Learning white paper**
In spring 2004, Billie Wahlstrom, Vice Provost for Distributed Education, approached the Academy about the possibility of either updating the existing 2001 ADT white paper on the role of teaching in hiring, promotion and tenure, or creating a new white paper that addresses the increasing role technology is playing in teaching and learning. The Executive Committee agreed that the topic was better suited to a new white paper rather than a revision of the old.

Discussions have begun and a small group of ADT faculty has been recruited, to work with Billie and her staff to explore the issue of technology and its impact on teaching and learning and to create a new white paper on this topic.

**Teaching stories**
During the summer 2004, ADT member Martin Sampson, one of the University’s legislative liaisons, requested that ADT members briefly share their written stories of teaching. These stories, received from 14 Academy members, were compiled and shared with then-Vice President for University Relations Sandra Gardebring, in hopes that they could be useful in helping to tell the University’s story to the legislature. With Vice President Gardebring’s departure and the recent arrival of a new Vice President, Linda Thrane, these conversations will be started anew. In the meantime, there has been interest expressed by those who coordinate the University Portal to feature, on a rotating basis, these stories and most who submitted their story have agreed to this use.

**2004 Retreat summary**
October 8-10, 2004 the Academy’s annual retreat took place at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge. This year’s retreat saw almost 50 ADT members in attendance, along with 23 of their guests. Sessions focused on topics such as the increasing use of utilitarian language to talk about the purpose of higher education, the University and the legislature, and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, along with many informal discussions around a variety of topics, a Saturday evening workshop opportunity to reflect on teaching, and an administrator panel with representatives from all four campuses. The weekend wrapped up with three practical pedagogy sessions on writing, teaching other cultures, and “alternative” pedagogies.

The 2005 ADT retreat will be October 7-9, 2005 at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge.

**April conference**
April 25, 2005 was the date of this year’s Academy-sponsored teaching and learning conference. This year’s conference, *Pedagogical Approaches to Engaging Students*, was co-sponsored by the Twin Cities Center for Teaching and Learning Services and the Provost’s Council for Enhancing Student Learning. The conference took place in the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin
Cities campus and featured keynote speaker Ben Cameron, Executive Director of the Theater Communications Group, along with a student panel and a variety of sessions that addressed various approaches to teaching and learning.

A call for proposals was issued in early December, with conference proposals due February 1st. Conference registration opened in early March. The awards ceremony to present the Morse-Alumni and Graduate & Professional awards immediately followed this one-day conference, in the McNamara Alumni Center. Over 220 people registered for this year’s conference.

**ADT small-grants program**
During 2003-2004, the Academy initiated a small-grants program for ADT members to support innovative, collaborative teaching and learning initiatives. Three awards were given during the grant’s first round and three awards were given during the second round of grant awards during spring 2005. Third-round grant proposals are due to Karen Zentner Bacig by March 1, 2006. For more information about the program or the current grant recipients, visit http://www.adt.umn.edu/grant.htm.

**Meeting with FCC**
Marvin Marshak, ADT member and current FCC chair, initiated a conversation with the Academy’s Executive Committee regarding ways in which the Academy could contribute to a variety of discussions and initiatives at the University. A meeting on December 2nd, 2004 provided an opportunity for Executive Committee members to share information with the FCC regarding a variety of activities the ADT is involved with now and in the past.

**Classroom Support**
The Twin Cities Steering Committee has, over the past three years, expressed its support for the need to have recurring funding for classroom upgrades to physical space and to technology. During fall 2004, Joel Weinsheimer, ADT member and member of the Space Advisory Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), and Steve Fitzgerald, Director of the Office of Classroom Management, visited with TCSC members during fall 2004 and the steering committee subsequently sent a letter to President Bruininks and Provost Sullivan, expressing support for upgrades thus far and the need for a recurring source of funding for such upgrades.

The President and Provost responded to the TCSC letter by asking for Academy input into a variety of classroom space issues. Discussions will continue around this topic.
May 2005

Executive Committee, 2004-2005
The following ADT members are currently serving on the Academy’s Executive Committee:

Bert Ahern, UMM (term ends fall 2005)
Ann Bergeron, UMD (term ends fall 2005)
Joseph Gallian, UMD (term ends fall 2006)
Gordon Hirsch, UMTC (term ends fall 2005)
Laura Coffin Koch, Chair, UMTC (term ends fall 2006)
Will Durfee, UMTC (term ends fall 2006)
Leslie Meek, UMM (term ends fall 2006)
Jim Rothenberger, UMTC (term ends fall 2005)
Dan Svedarsky, UMC (term ends fall 2005)

ADT Service Survey
During 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, Academy members were asked, via an online survey, to indicate the various ways in which they had provided service to their department, their college, their campus, and their discipline. Summary reports of these surveys are currently being completed and will be shared with ADT members, as well as with appropriate campus administrators, during summer 2005. The 2004-2005 service survey was recently launched. Academy members are encouraged to visit http://www.irr.umn.edu/adt/memberservice05/ to complete the 2004-2005 service survey.

In addition to the ways in which ADT members serve on various ADT committees and initiatives, Academy members serve the University on the following Senate committees:

- FCC
- SCC
- Advisory Committee on Athletics
- All-University Honors
- Benefits Advisory Committee
- Committee on Committees
- Council on Liberal Education
- Disability Issues
- Educational Policy
- Faculty Academic Oversight Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics
- Finance and Planning
- Judicial
- Library
- Nominating
- Research
- Social Concerns
- Student Academic Integrity
- Tenure

In fact, Academy members serve on almost every Senate committee there is! ADT members also serve the University as department heads, legislative liaisons, and as members of a host of
May 2005

task forces and other committees, including the current strategic positioning work with Provost Tom Sullivan.

**Campus Activities**

**Crookston.** Crookston’s two ADT faculty members have been working over the last few months with two grants on the Crookston campus that are funded by the ADT small grants program. One grant is supporting faculty to learn about and to implement service learning in their courses. The second grant is funding an outreach program to encourage high-school students in northwestern Minnesota to consider careers in agriculture.

**Duluth.** In March 2004, Duluth’s ADT faculty held a Student Panel Group Retreat to gather feedback about students’ experiences with teaching and learning at UMD. A representative from each collegiate unit participated. A number of recommendations resulted from this first event that are currently being pursued by Academy members on the Duluth campus. Given the success of the first event, this year the Duluth ADT faculty organized a day of student panels for April 5, 2005. This event included representatives from each collegiate department, to continue the valuable discussions with students about teaching and learning.

**Twin Cities.** The Twin Cities ADT faculty, under the auspices of the Twin Cities Steering Committee, holds monthly faculty gatherings to provide an informal opportunity to gather and talk about issues relative to teaching and learning.

The group has also, in the past 18 months, submitted a letter on behalf of the Twin Cities ADT members to the President and Provost in support of funding and infrastructure for classroom space and technology upgrades; co-sponsored workshops and conferences on learning assessment with the Provost’s Council for Enhancing Student Learning; met with Craig Swan, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Jerry Rinehart, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, about ways in which ADT faculty could contribute to student success; met with the Council of Undergraduate deans about the ADT and its various activities; and submitted a letter to the President and Provost in support of technology enhanced learning efforts on the Twin Cities campus.