



FACULTY CENTER FOR TEACHING  
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

## **Annual Report to Faculty and Staff (May 2013-April 2014)**

### Teaching Grants and Support for Conference Travel

We have continued our work with the Provost, FDSC, and the Writing Program to ensure clarity and coordination in providing summer funding opportunities for faculty development, co-sponsoring a luncheon time session in October 2013 to address questions about the various types of proposals. Following this session, we posted the criteria we use to review summer grants on our website so that all interested colleagues could access this rubric in addition to the submission guidelines.

We awarded two pedagogical development grants and two joint pedagogical development/new course development grants for the summer of 2014. In the second pilot year of the Small Groups Grants program we funded four projects involving eleven faculty/staff members and five students.

We continued to provide up to \$500 in support for faculty participation in teaching conferences or workshops and made ten awards this fiscal year. Additionally, the FCT budget provided support for Amy Hark to attend the POD and AAC&U annual meetings.

We would like to thank colleagues who received these FCT awards for participating in Fall and/or Spring sessions designed to share their work with the campus community. You can also find information about recently funded projects on our website:

[http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/fct/grant\\_summer.html](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/fct/grant_summer.html)

### Programs

We circulated a schedule of events electronically at the start of both the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 semesters. In addition to sessions mentioned above, programming included:

- a Common Hour lunch discussion with faculty and staff representatives from the Academic Judicial Board about academic honesty at Muhlenberg
- a Knotty Problems roundtable, providing an opportunity for structured, fast-paced exchange of practical teaching situations (both challenges and possible solutions)
- New Faculty Orientation: specific sessions for new faculty, including the one day orientation in August, the Peer Partner program (with nine new peer pairs formed this year), and discussions throughout the year.

- Cluster Course Workshops: continued support for faculty developing cluster courses with a one-day workshop to be held on May 16, sponsored in collaboration with the Provost's Office. The schedule was developed based on feedback we received at the end of last year's three-day event; we hope that this session will be useful for both colleagues who participated in last year's workshop as well as for those who have developed cluster proposals more recently.

### Other resources

We purchased eight new titles for FCT collection at Trexler Library based on suggestions from colleagues and evaluations by FCT Board members. You can access a listing of books in the FCT collection through our website ([http://library.muhlenberg.edu/search/X?SEARCH=%28\\*%29&SORT=D&b=ofa](http://library.muhlenberg.edu/search/X?SEARCH=%28*%29&SORT=D&b=ofa); note that some of the newest title appear on the last page) or search for titles at the Library website. We also continue our subscription to *The Teaching Professor* for faculty and staff use. Other highlighted resources and readings of interest on our website include the Tomorrow's Professor eNewsletter and insidehighered.com.

### Additional work

The FCT Board has discussed how we might contribute to dialogue and action connected to diversity issues on campus. We proposed a programming series on inclusive pedagogy for consideration as an initiative by the Diversity Strategic Planning Committee. This proposed program is intended to provide support for faculty to develop classroom practices and pedagogical approaches that acknowledge both visible and invisible forms of diversity and recognize the intersectionality of identities. Initial review by the DSPC has recommended this initiative for further study.

Connected to teaching and technology, Amy Hark is serving as a member of the search committee for our new Instructional Design Consultant and is on the Steering Committee for the LVAIC Workshop on Digital Tools for Teaching and Learning the Liberal Arts.

Amy also presented to the Parents Council in March, highlighting our sustained support for the new cluster courses as well as the Small Group Grant projects.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of FCT,



Amy Hark, Director, Faculty Center for Teaching