

2005-06 Annual Report of the Adelphi Faculty Senate Committee on Teaching and Advisement

Committee members during 2005-06: Lawrence Hobbie (Biology), chair; Cynthia Demetriou (Academic Services), secretary; Elsa Bekkala (Art Education), Eloise Bellard (Library), Richard Belson (Social Work), Jenine DeMarzo (Health Sciences), Astrid Palm (FCPE), Elizabeth Cohn (Nursing), Sue Greenfield (Nursing), Patrick Kelly (History), Ruth McShane (College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office), Flo Myers (Communication Sciences), David Parkin (Chemistry), Henrietta Pearlman (Learning Center), and Janet Cohen (Learning Disabilities).

The committee met four times in the fall and three times in the spring: September 19, 2005; October 3, 2005; October 31, 2005, November 28, 2005; January 30, 2006; March 6, 2006; and April 3, 2006.

In 2005-2006 the Teaching and Advisement Committee carried out its mandate to work for good teaching at Adelphi by organizing teaching workshops, brown-bag luncheons, and by political action. We sponsored six teaching workshops during the year, four of which we organized. The first workshop on October 24, 2005, entitled "Comment So It Counts: Improving student writing through better feedback" was led by Michael Matto of the English Department and Writing Center, who described how to tailor comments on student papers and exams for maximum effectiveness in improving student writing. The second workshop, on November 9, 2005, was entitled "An overview of universal design in teaching." Susan Spencer of the Learning Disabilities Program described how to design courses to make them accessible to all students, including those with learning disabilities. The third workshop, on December 6, 2006, was entitled "Teaching effectively to large classes and small". Presenters Katherine Flynn (Biology), Sue Greenfield (Nursing), and Miriam Pepper-Sanello (Education) described their teaching approaches and techniques that can be especially useful for large classes. The fourth workshop, on February 13, 2005, was entitled "Extreme teaching: how to teach so your students will never forget." Presenter Elizabeth Cohn (Nursing) described teaching approaches that get the students actively involved in their classes, and then the participants practiced this approach using various ideas developed by and props provided by Professor Cohn. The fifth workshop, "Teaching diverse classes", was held on March 29, 2006. Presenters Lucia Buttarò (Education), Dennis Hidalgo (History), and Della Hudson-Tomlin (Student Affairs) discussed the importance of faculty's awareness of our students' diverse backgrounds, and how we can teach better to such a diverse group. The workshops, our most visible effort, represent we believe a significant contribution to increasing campus discussion and sharing of good ideas about various aspects of teaching. Videos and associated materials (e.g. presenters' handouts) are accessible on the committee's Web page (<http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/Teaching/>).

We organized two brown-bag lunches in the fall, one with Provost Marcia Welsh and one with Professor Susan Weisser, who discussed her article in *Academe*, "Believing in yourself as classroom culture." In the spring we sponsored one brown-bag lunch with

Associate Provost Les Baltimore focusing on advising. We thank these administrators for participating in our discussions of teaching and advising.

During the previous academic year, our committee discussed, approved, and brought to the full Faculty Senate a resolution that course descriptions and syllabi of previous-offered courses should be posted and available to students to aid them in course selection. The Senate adopted the resolution. During 2005-06 Hobbie has been coordinating with the Information Technology Department on this issue, but technical difficulties in dealing with the many formats in which syllabi are submitted have delayed implementation.

The committee coordinated with the Office of Academic Services to oversee advising. The committee developed a set of guidelines for academic advisors, essentially a set of “best practices”, and brought them to the Senate in fall 2005 for discussion. With the addition of “Student Planning Guidelines”, the advising guidelines were approved by the Faculty Senate on Oct. 17, 2005. They are being disseminated to faculty and students through placement on Adelphi’s Web site and inclusion in materials distributed to students and faculty at their respective orientation. The committee also has put together, with the assistance of the Faculty Center for Professional Excellence, a Web page that includes a variety of sources of information useful for faculty advisors (<http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/Teaching/#Advising>).

The committee solicited faculty volunteers willing to have their classes observed by other faculty so all can learn more about teaching. More than 30 faculty volunteered, and a list has been posted on the committee’s Web page.

In academic year 2006-2007 the committee, under the new leadership of Sue Greenfield of Nursing, plans to continue its efforts to promote quality teaching and advising at Adelphi.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Hobbie
Chair, Teaching and Advisement Committee