

**Arkansas Tech University**  
**CETL Advisory Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: September 15, 2021, 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Committee Members in Attendance: Robin Lasey (CETL Director), Randall Colvin, Patrick Hage, Matthew Hankins, Lisa Harless, Stephen Jones, Hanna Norton, Jeremy Schwehm, V. Carole Smith, Ellen Treadway

- 1) Dr. Lasey convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed members to the first meeting of the year. Committee members introduced themselves.
- 2) Dr. Lasey provided the committee with an update on the badging program and process, which started last year with two tracks: diversity and well being. She explained that badges are earned based on participation at three levels: (1) active involvement in a presentation, book study, or other event at the introductory level; (2) applying lessons learned in the classroom; and (3) sharing information with faculty and/or staff at an event. In the spring, faculty and staff were emailed a link to summary form to complete in which they reflected on the CETL event that they attended, after which they received a badge based on level of participation. The committee recognized Dr. Lacey's time and commitment to reviewing submissions and documenting participation through the badging process last year.
- 3) The spring 2021 diversity program included presentations, panels, and webinars for Black History Monday, Women's History Monday, and LGBTQ+ History Month. In the fall, programs will focus on Hispanic Heritage Month (September), Disability History Month (October), and World Cultures: Home and Abroad (November).
- 4) Dr. Lasey reported that feedback from the university community has been positive. Past events were well attended and received, and events seemed to energize faculty and staff based on survey feedback. There is overall appreciation of the variety of events scheduled, particularly student panels. Recorded events have been especially well received, as they allow on-demand participation.
- 5) Dr. Lasey invited committee members to share their suggestions moving forward. Among the discussion topics were the following:
  - a. Programming needs to continue to include topics related to faculty and staff well being. Faculty are often asked to extend grace to students, yet many feel as if they are not considered in decisions that directly impact them. Extending grace to faculty through the continuation of well being programming was supported by advisory committee members as a means of helping faculty and staff navigate change at this uncertain time and a way of communicating the importance of faculty and staff mental health and well being to the university community.
  - b. Communication about the badging process as a means of documenting CETL participation was identified as a topic of importance. Feedback from faculty and staff indicated that some considered badging as a way of policing attendance. On the contrary, badging is a vehicle to show how individuals are improving their practice through continuous learning beyond August and May professional development required by the university. This misunderstanding needs to be

communicated clearly and often to ensure that faculty and staff know that it is their choice to attend, rather than a mandate.

- c. The committee discussed reaching out to department heads to ask them to communicate the purpose of badging and the value of continuous learning. The message will include CETL's goal of offering opportunities for faculty and staff to choose professional development that is meaningful to them, as the overarching objective is to improve teaching and learning through continuous learning. The committee discussed that it is important for department heads to communicate that badges award faculty and staff for the time and energy dedicated to improving teaching and work with students. Members of the CETL committee will assist Dr. Lasey in this important work.
  - d. Dr. Colvin will work with Dr. Jacobs on the ATU Ozark campus to encourage faculty to communicate their professional development interests and needs to CETL and to participate in programming this year.
  - e. Other topics discussed for future programming included revisiting SOTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning), organizing Birds of a Feather accountability groups, and offering book clubs, which have been very successful to date. The committee will also continue to explore other ways to celebrate faculty and staff that are authentic and motivational.
- 6) The next meeting is scheduled for November 3 via WebEx. The committee will continue to explore and to discuss different ways to provide productive professional development programming to faculty and staff. Also, January and May 2022 professional development will be discussed with the goal of making programming recommendations to the administration.
  - 7) The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Treadway on 9/16/2021