ONU Faculty Learning Communities: Informational Session

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ONU FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITIES

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

26 FEBRUARY 2020
WHAT IS A FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITY (FLC)?

“…a cross-disciplinary faculty and staff group of six to fifteen members (eight to twelve is the recommended size) who engage in an active, collaborative, yearlong program with a curriculum about enhancing teaching and learning and with frequent seminars and activities that provide learning, development, the scholarship of teaching, and community building.”

An FLC is not:

- A committee or task force
- A brownbag series
- A book club
- A seminar series for disciplinary research
- A social hour
- An informal discussion time
FLCs are sometimes called “Communities of Practice.”
Some key traits:

• Voluntary membership
• A focus on community building
• A long-term, sustained engagement with scholarly teaching and SoTL
• Building measurable impacts on student success and faculty professional engagement
• An intentional intellectual structure focused on a topic or cohort
Topics or cohorts?
POSSIBLE FLC ACTIVITIES

- Seminars
- Group conference attendance
- Faculty retreats
- Prepare and test teaching innovations
- Present and critique of SoTL research
- Social gatherings
FLC PROJECTS

Individual projects are an important part of an FLC. For most FLCs, each participant identifies and works on a SoTL project related to topic. During the FLC, participants will:

1) Identify a problem or area of inquiry related to the FLC theme
2) Investigate the scholarly literature of the topic
3) Propose a solution
4) Begin the process of presentation and publication
5) Receive feedback from fellow participants
PRACTICAL MATTERS

• The FLC will meet for 90 minutes to 2 hours, at least once monthly throughout the academic year.
• CAFE will allocate a budget, which will include hospitality costs as well as a small amount for individual, project-related development.
• Proposals for topics are due 3 April 2020.
• Topic and facilitator determined by 1 May 2020.
• First meeting during opening week