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POD Network News, February 1993

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POD NETWORK NEWS February, 1993

Our New Look!

Last year we introduced a new look for the Network when we introduced our new/old logo and a new color scheme for our letterhead and envelopes. This issue of our newsletter carries that look a step further. With a little bit of work on the part of the Media Graphics Division at Iowa State University and David Graf, we now have a format for our newsletter. We hope you like the new look. Comments would be apprieciated!

CORE Committee Elections

Five new CORE members were elected by the membership and George Gordon was selected to fill a one year remaining term of Liz Fideler who resigned from the Committee to move into a new job. Congratulations to the new members of the CORE Committee. Here is a short introduction to each:

Beverley Amick, Associate Dean-Education, Kean College of New Jersey.

George Gordon, Director, Academic Practice, University of Strathclyde, Glascow, Scotland.

Eric Kristensen, Director of Faculty and Instructional Development, Berklee College of Music.

Jacqueline Mintz, Academic Coordinator, Office of Graduate Student Instructor Training, University of California at Berkeley.

Ed Neal, Director of Faculty Development, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Lynn Sorenson-Pierce, Faculty Center, Brigham Young University.

As you may know, the CORE makes the decisions and suggests, along with the membership activities for the network. Be sure to talk with new CORE members about ways of continuing to improve our professional association.

Thank you and a tip of the hat to

Suzanne Brown, Judy Greene, Kay Herr, Richard Nichols, Thomas Pasternack, Larry Quinsland, and Ron Smith, who have served the Network during the past three years as members of the CORE Committee. Their leadership and guidance is appreciated.

Spring CORE Committee Meeting

The spring meeting of the CORE Committee will be Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14 preceding the AAHE meeting at the Hilton in Washington, D.C.

Major business will be adopting a new budget; relationships with other professional groups; our conferences, upcoming and future; committee reports, and special projects. At the conclusion of the CORE meeting, Don Wulff of the University of Washington will be the Executive Director. Drop by if you would like to see how the CORE Committee operates.

If you are attending the AAHE Conference, I encourage you to attend the *POD Sampler* (from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. March 14) and the reception immediately following the session. If you are in session or in informal situations in which you can tell others about the work of POD, please do so. POD also will have a new exhibit focused on services to administrators in the exhibit area in the Hilton Towers. Be sure to stop by and make connections.

POD Conference at Rochester, Mn October 14-17, 1993

You will want to put this year's conference on your calendar. Not only is there a good price, the program and arrangements are shaping up well under the direction of Suzanne Brown, Kay Herr, Linda Hilsen and their committee members. If you would like to be involved, contact one of them.

Progam proposal forms and instructions for completing and submitting them were included in the call for proposals, which were sent to you in January. The deadline for receipt of proposals for conference sessions (but not pre-conference workshops) is April 15, 1993.

Because pre-conference workshops have to be determined early enough for information about them to be included in the pre-registration mailing, the deadline for proposals for these workshops is March 12, 1993. Typically, 7-9 workshops are scheduled. One or two may be inivted by the planning committee, and the remainder are selected from submitted proposals. In general, these half-day or full-day sessions are in a specialized, working format which cannot be contained within the limited time or regular conference sessions. If you have questions concerning whether an idea for a workshop is appropriate for the pre-conference format, please call one of the pre-conference workshop co-chairs, Linc. Fisch (606-278-1457) or Judy Greene (302-831-2027).

If you desire to submit a conference proposal, remember these dates:

March 12 — Pre-Conference Workshop Proposals are due.

April 15 — Conference Session Proposals are due.

If you do not have a proposal form, contact David Graf at (515) 294-3808 or use his E-mail address of J1DLG@ISUVAX.IASTATE.EDU.

Regional Faculty Development Groups/Consortia

For many years POD has debated and suggested ways to encourage regional networking. Unfortunately these efforts have met with limited success for a variety of reasons. The CORE Committee has had renewed discussions about encouraging regional support for faculty developers.

On February 7-9, 1993, I was invited to address the Southern Regional Faculty and Instructional Development Consortium which met in Lynchburg, Virginia. The SRFIDC has been in existence for fourteen years and represents a range of southern colleges and universities. Their stated purpose is "to promote instructional effectiveness in institutions of higher learning in the South" through sharing information on programs relating to instructional improvement and providing professional development activities for instructional and faculty development and personnel" (two of the major activities). I found their "sharing conference" quite enjoyable and a catalyst to reflect on our relationship with regional groups. At the conference, we did discuss the possibility of establishing a list of affiliates available to the POD membership. Since a number of POD members have expressed interest in getting connected to faculty development support closer to home, this would be an advantage for members. This would be seen as a loose affiliation with a focus on information and networking.

We could include affiliations in the POD Networking Booklet and publicize regional meetings. The SRFIDC is also developing an electronic

network so there may be new opportunities to share ideas, concerns, and strategies.

We will explore this notion further at the CORE Committee meeting March 13-14. I do want to express my appreciation to Tom Pasternak, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, for inviting me to the SRFIDC and being a fine host at the conference.

Summer Workshop for Long-Term Faculty Developers

While in Lynchburg at the Southern regional meeting, I had a conversation with Ben Ward about the possibility of developing a summer workshop for reflection, renewal and challenging ideas of long-time developers. Ben suggested he would be interested and can make arrangements at a fine retreat area in the North Carolina mountains at a very good price.

A number of the senior developers have made comments to me about the need for this kind of experience. Some of you may have participated a few years ago in a similar arrangement developed by Ben Ward, first with NCRIPTL support and subsequently independently.

Probably we would be looking at a 1994 summer date. I'd like to hear whether you would be interested and any thoughts about the experience. Let's discuss the issue on the electronic network.

A Few Reflections of An Outgoing Executive Director

Although it has gone rather quickly, I have enjoyed my year as Executive Director. Thanks to all of you for making it a memorable time. There have been some challenges which certainly have clarified some of my thinking, and I believe we are moving forward as an organization during changing times.

A few challenges yet to be addressed include:

- Maintain the best of the informal network yet provide enough structure (we are becoming a good-sized organization) to efficiently cycle our major activities and interface with our many individual users and organizations. No doubt this will continue to be a creative tension for POD.

- With our decision to meet in more urban areas the next two years (in order to cut expenses and be more accessible) we need to program creatively and evaluate carefully to see if we can provide the same conference quality or even better quality.

- With the strong interest (particularly by administrators) in Total Quality Management, POD, and we as faculty developers, need to understand TQM and encourage it's use in appropriate ways to improve quality in higher education. We also need to apply some of the philosophy and concepts to our own profession. If you haven't read Chaffee and Scheer's "Quality: Transforming Postsecondary Education" (ASHE-ERIC monograph), it is a good starting point.

- POD is no longer a bootstrap organization. Although we should always maintain a cash

reserve, we need to consider innovative strategies and continuous improvements that enrich the membership.

- We should continue to consider ways to work cooperatively with other associations (AAHE, AAC, ACE) and the regional faculty development groups. Joint programming and writing projects are two possible outcomes. Let's keep these associations informal, however.

- Lastly, I hope we will have the courage to be an important player in times that continue to look as though they will be difficult and challenging.

Daniel W. Wheeler

Upcoming Professional Opportunities

- August 8-12, 1993. Faculty Development Pacific Institute, University of Victoria, British Columbia. "Teaching for a Change" is the focus. For further information, contact the Teaching and Learning Center, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3025, Victoria, BC V8W 3P2, Canada.
- November 10-13, 1993. "Teaching Graduate Students to Teach: Engaging the Disciplines." The Fourth National Conference on the Training and Employment of Graduate Teaching Assistants. Contact: Jeffrey Sands, Conferences and Institutes, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (217) 333-2881.

Among Us

- Roger Sell is now at the University of Northern Iowa.

- Linda Nilson has taken a faculty development position with Vanderbilt University.

Congratulations to both Linda and Roger on their new positions.

Resources of Interest

"Inequity in the Classroom" is a videotape and manual that covers issues of sexism and racism in the university classroom. In addition to identifying different forms of inequity, the videotape also describes alternative teaching practices that can be used to create an inclusive learing environment for all students. The manua includes a guide for a one-day workshop, fact sheets on several types of discrimination, and an annotated bibliography. For more information, contact Visual Media Resources at Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (514-848-4841. PODer Claudie Solar edited the manual.

Enclosures

Included with this issue of the POD Network News are corrections and additions to the Program Descriptions booklet. You should have received a copy of the booklet either at the POD Conference in October or in the mail in November. Insert the new pages and replace the updated pages in your copy. Thanks to Glenn Erickson for heading up this project and providing the updates.

Also enclosed with this mailing is the Bright Idea Network booklet, containing the ideas and suggestions from those who attended the POD Conference in October.

To Do List

- Submit a session proposal for the POD Conference in Rochester, Minnesota.

- Register for the POD Conference. Registration materials should be in the mail before the end of the current academic year.