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POD Network News, May 1995

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1995 POD Conference in Cape Cod

Shortly, you will be receiving registration materials for the 20th POD conference, at Sea Crest Resort in North Falmouth, Massachusetts, just at the base of Cape Cod. The conference will be held from October 26-29 and will be characterized by much that is familiar, including a variety of presessions, concurrent sessions, and educational excursions. Some highlights:

- Keynote speaker Stephen Brookfield, professor at the University of St. Thomas and author of such best-selling works as *The Skillful Professor*, will talk about the themes contained in his upcoming book, *Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher*.
- "POD umbausgs" will succeed the successful Wawsuk-las of the Portland conference, refining upon the idea of building good networking time directly into the program.
- Taking a cue from our strategic planning recommendation to communicate our work more effectively to academic decision-makers, a special opportunity for participation by academic leaders (provosts, vice chancellors, deans) will be held on the first day of the conference.

Since our conferences are getting bigger, we are straining the sleeping room capacity of most resorts, including Sea Crest, so members are urged to register early if they want to be on-site.

Core Committee Meeting

The POD Core Committee held its midyear meeting in March in Washington, D.C. Much of the meeting was spent working on producing a policy document and conference planning procedures. Core Committee members examined about half of the projected policies and procedures and made suggestions for revision. The remaining policies will be reviewed at the fall meeting. Following that, policies will be available for all to see.

The Core Committee also received updates on the budget, publications, grants, diversity task force, Spirit of POD award, and AAHE Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable representation. Interspersed throughout the discussion were attempts to ascertain the committee structure through which much of our work gets done. By the

end of the meeting, we were able to describe what we have in place now. This structure is contained on a special enclosure with this newsletter that is designed to broaden participation on the committees.

Transitions

March is transition time for POD officers. At the March 19 meeting, Nancy Chism became President, Marilyn Leach, President-elect, Karron Lewis, Past President, and Ed Jensen, Steve Richardson, Christine Stanley, and Richard Tiberius became Core Committee members. Don Wulff completed his term as Past President, and Kate Brinko, Judy Friedman, George Gordon, Madelyn Healy, Jean Replinger, David Way, and Myra Wilhite completed terms as Core Committee members.

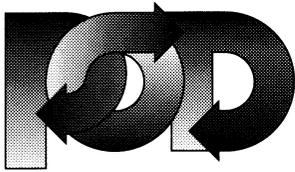
We continue to benefit from the generous and talented leadership our members contribute. During the past year, the strategic planning process, policy formulation, and smooth functioning of the organization were spearheaded by Karron, Don, and the Core Committee. POD thanks all involved.

AAHE Participation

At the National Conference on Higher Education, POD participated in several ways:

- Members Tom Angelo, Bob Diamond, Bette LaSere Erickson, Barbara Millis, and Joan North all participated in the program. Tom, as director of the AAHE Assessment Forum, was integrally involved in planning and implementing the conference.
- David Graf and members of the Core Committee staffed a booth displaying POD publications and membership materials.
- Karron Lewis and David Graf made a presentation about POD to participants in the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtables. Several POD members were involved in the TLT roundtables from their campuses. The TLT's suggestion that such roundtables involve staff from the teaching center, as well as their continued request for POD involvement in shaping the roundtables, indicates a recognition of what POD members can contribute to a very important direction in higher ed.

AAHE announced a new initiative of interest to POD, the New Pathways Program, that will look at faculty careers, including the promotion and tenure system. We will look



into how we might be involved in this new activity and explore increasing our involvement in AAHE's Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards and Assessment Forum.

Membership Fee Increase

One decision made subsequent to the Core Committee meeting is a dues increase. Since the planning budget for 1995-96 projected expenses nearly \$30,000 greater than revenues, the discussion on how to avoid depleting our reserves continued over electronic mail. Core members reached consensus that part of the solution is an increase in dues. Beginning with 1995-96, individual North American memberships will go from \$40 to \$50; institutional North American memberships from \$100 to \$125; Other nation individual memberships from \$50 to \$60 and Other nation institutional from \$125 to \$150. The prevailing opinion among Core members was that even the increased rates are still inexpensive in comparison to the dues of other professional organizations. We hope you agree!

Increasing Authorship

One of the strategic planning groups suggested that this newsletter contain more than announcements. Toward that end, a form is enclosed to encourage you to submit short "think pieces." These can be opinions on books or articles you have read, musings you have had about your work, questions you would like to pose to others, details of humorous incidents, and the like. Your contributions will enhance the potential of this newsletter to promote camaraderie and reflective practice.

To Improve the Academy

Editor Ed Neal, Associate Editor Laurie Richlin, and the reviewers of *To Improve the Academy* are busy providing feedback to those who submitted manuscripts for this year's edition. According to our succession process, Laurie will become the editor of next year's edition. For those wanting to get involved next year, a self-nomination form for the positions of associate editor and reviewer is enclosed.

Plenty to Do

Okay, so the "o" is not in the right place, but you get the idea: POD needs you! As a network, one of POD's strengths is its ability to engage professionals who are often operating in isolation from their professional peers. One important thing that members can do to enrich their own growth and further the development of the organization is to become actively involved in the network throughout the year. On an enclosure are a variety of ways in which members can participate. As POD grows, only a strong committee structure will enable it to be reflective of the talents, goals, and labor of more than just the handful of members who compose the Core Committee. Do consider helping out.

From the New POD President

Did you know that in POD we don't pass a gavel to the new President? What Karron Lewis gave me was a small plastic wand containing yellow liquid in which metal stars-and-moons confetti is suspended. This is a delightful symbol for me. If you have heard any "Core stories" (as in, "war stories"), you know that the Core Committee operates on consensus (which often means, "discuss until you're worn out") and that Core Committee members are energetic, passionate, tenacious, and in short, "ungavel-able." So it is fitting that the President of this organization is armed with this wand, suggesting that the proper leadership should be characterized by humor, the universe of possibilities, and perhaps—a belief in magic.

At 1,000+ members, we are at an interesting stage of development. With the capable work of David Graf and several of our members, we have left the world of index cards and typewriters to become fluid users of databases, desktop publishing, and electronic conferencing. We are even investing our reserve funds! Yet many things remain the same and we are glad for that. Even though we communicate electronically there is that wonderful spirit of helpfulness and friendliness among POD members that comes through (well...not always when junk mail is involved!). Even though our meetings are larger, there is still the POD Participate-Or-Die and Plan-On-Dancing quality to our conferences. And even though our publications look slicker, there is still the same practical, grounded quality to them.

The challenge in the coming years is to continue to nurture what we cherish and accept the changes that are demanded by growth. My first action toward this end is to

articulate our governance and task accomplishment structures so that participation will be broad-based yet organized. We need to reflect the strength of the numbers by involving as many members as possible, but this requires a more formal plan since the structures are more cumbersome than they were in the past when informal delegation worked. Once decision-making on specific tasks is entrusted to those closest to the task, those whom we have asked to provide leadership—the officers and Core Committee—can focus more clearly on long-term vision and assessment.

I sincerely hope that my efforts this year will contribute to the organization. Given the talent all around me and the limited power of our executive position, I'm not too afraid that I can do very much damage—even though I *do* have the wand...



Nancy Chism,
1995-96 President, POD Network

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Conferences

Lilly Conferences on College Teaching

There are still three Lilly Conferences on College Teaching happening in 1995!

June 2-4 is Lilly-South in Columbia, SC. Interested folks should call Laurie Richlin at (412) 624-6593 or e-mail at RICHLIN@VMS.CIS.PITT.EDU right away to reserve space.

September 8-10 is Lilly-New England in Durham, NH.

November 17-19 is the original Lilly Conference at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. For information on these, call or write to the above or write to Laurie at IATS, 414 S. Craig, Suite 313, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

The Lilly conferences present opportunities for faculty and administrators from all types of colleges and universities and from all disciplines to discuss any topic related to improving college/university teaching. There are keynote presentations, workshops, and individual seminars. At Lilly-South, John Gardner (Freshman Year Experience) is giving the keynote and Tom Angelo (classroom assessment tech-

niques) is giving a workshop and a closing talk. At Lilly-New England, there will be feature presentations by Tom Angelo, Maryellen Weimer, and Tony Grasha.

STLHE Conference on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

The 15th annual conference on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education will be held from June 14-17, 1995 at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. The conference theme is "Focusing on Learning." The conference is sponsored by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), and would be of interest to faculty developers, faculty, and teaching assistants in all disciplines who are interested in teaching and learning.

Like the POD conference, sessions are interactive and focus on ideas for revitalizing teaching and learning. For additional information individuals should contact: Educational Development Office, Stevenson-Lawson 125, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, N6A 4W4 Canada. Telephone (519) 661-2111, ext. 4622; Fax (519) 661-3076; e-mail: slbmmr@uwoadmin.uwo.ca

AAHE Conference on Assessment & Quality

AAHE's 10th Conference on Assessment & Quality- "Improving Learning: Forging Better Connections Between Assessment, Quality, and Accreditation" will be held in Boston, June 11-14, at the Copley Marriott Hotel. If you'd like to receive a copy of the 1995 Conference Preview and information on registration, please contact Liz Lloyd at 202/293-6440, ext. 21 or [<elloyd@capcon.net>](mailto:elloyd@capcon.net). (Make sure to include your complete mailing address.)

Massachusetts Faculty Development Consortium Conference

The Massachusetts Faculty Development Consortium's annual conference will be held on November 17 at The College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. To be sure that you get information about the conference, contact: Dr. Susan A. Holton, MFDC Director, Maxwell Library Room 315, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA 02325; phone 508-697-1750 or e-mail: sholton@bridgew.edu.

Free Copy

TQM Newsletter

For those involved in total quality management or continuous quality improvement on their campuses, the "TQM in Higher Education" newsletter is a valuable resource. This 8-page, monthly publication highlights innovative programs and methods for implementing TQM/CQI at campuses around the country. Editorial advisory board members include Myron Tribus and Philip Crosby.

For a sample copy, contact Mary Lou Santovec, Managing Editor at Magna Publications, 2718 Dryden Drive, Madison, WI 53704; fax: 608/249-0355, or phone: 608/246-3590 ext. 106.

Position Sought

Experienced faculty development & evaluation practitioner/researcher/ writer/instructional designer/faculty member/instructional technologist seeks to advance in career and life. Noted for having and expressing opinions. Interested? Call Mike Theall at 205-934-6395.

Queries

Learning Communities

The Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education is building a national/international list of learning community programs, and is also planning to investigate, in depth, selected programs. They are seeking information and contacts regarding learning community programs on your campuses, or on other ones you're aware of.

By learning communities, the Center means INTENTIONAL CURRICULUM RESTRUCTURING EFFORTS that thematically link or cluster classes during a given term and enroll a common cohort of students. Please send the names/schools of contact people (and phone number or e-mail address) who direct learning communities on campuses of any size or type. The Center is particularly interested in locating learning community efforts in professional degree programs. Later this spring, the compilers will send the whole list to anyone requesting it.

Please send information to:

Jean MacGregor (macgjean@elwha.evergreen.edu)
or Kathe Taylor (kathet@elwha.evergreen.edu)
(360) 866-6000, ext. 6608
Wash Ctr for Imp the Quality of Undergrad Edu
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, WA 98505

Teaching Academies

Nancy Chism is seeking information on institutions that have teaching academies. These are defined as "a group of faculty who are considered excellent or highly interested in teaching and have been tapped by their institutions to engage in teaching advocacy, service, or advising on teaching matters." Send information to Nancy at 20 Lord Hall, Ohio State University, 124 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

Hesburgh Awards

TIAA-CREF, sponsor of the Hesburgh Award for Faculty Development to Enhance Undergraduate Teaching, will be sending application materials to campuses at the beginning of May. If these do not reach you and you would like to nominate a program, call 1-800-842-2733, Ext. 7302 for a set of materials.

Also, TIAA-CREF is seeking volunteers to screen applications for this award. In the past, POD members have been part of the process and TIAA-CREF would like our help again. Screeners receive an honorarium and are asked to read 30 to 40 entries during the last two weeks of October. If you would like to be considered for this process, please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to David Graf, dgraf@iastate.edu or 15B Exhibit Hall South, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

Annenberg Grants

The Annenberg/CPB Project funds projects connected with educational technology in higher education. A total of \$2 million has been set aside for two initiatives: I-for development of courseware for national and international distribution, and II-for research on how courses are changing in response to student use of technology and how faculty rethink courses accordingly. Proposals for initiative I are due June 1 and for II on June 15. Guidelines are available by gopher and WWW by sending e-mail to annhe-guidelines@chronicle.merit.edu.



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