

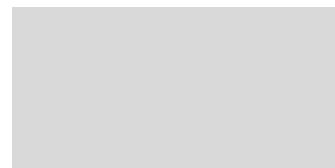


# FALL 2020 FACULTY CENTER ASSESSMENT REPORT

UNLV Faculty Affairs

December 2020

Melissa Bowles-Terry, Associate Director



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# Executive Summary of Fall 2020 Faculty Center Events & Services: Assessment Report

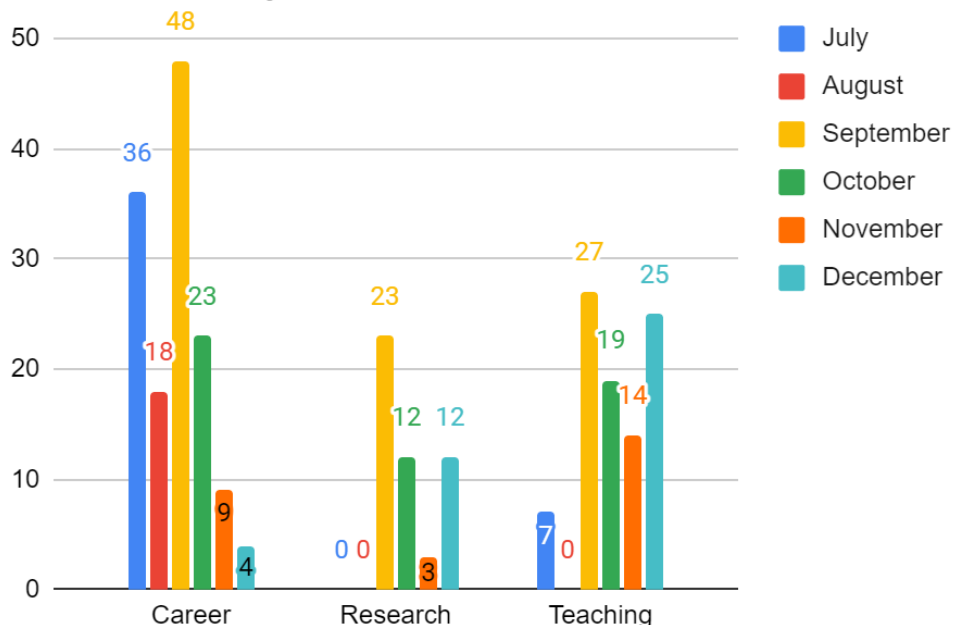
## Services

1. Workshops on teaching, research, and career development/wellness
2. Learning communities
3. Book group
4. Writing groups
5. Teaching observations
6. One-on-one consultations
7. Communication via newsletter and social media
8. Selection committees for Teaching Awards (Regents/Foundation)
9. Website with resources, request forms, and news

## Outcomes Overview

- In Fall 2020 the UNLV Faculty Center had total attendance of 280 participants at 5 events and 8 learning communities sponsored by the Faculty Center over the course of the semester.

Overall Faculty Attendance



- Operating completely remotely in Fall 2020, we sponsored a variety of learning communities that met regularly in order to support a sense of connectedness for faculty.
- Faculty Center Fellows offered 4 one-on-one consultations and 10 teaching observations.
- The Faculty Center organized 2 different writing groups with a total of 11 faculty participants.

## FALL 2020 FACULTY CENTER ASSESSMENT REPORT

- Most faculty members who used Faculty Center services were Assistant Professors or Administrative Faculty.
- All academic units (colleges and schools) were represented at Faculty Center events and services, most from Education and Liberal Arts.
- In addition to events planned and hosted by the Faculty Center, we co-sponsored and/or advertised many other events for campus units including The Intersection, Online Education, the Graduate College, and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.
- We send a weekly newsletter on Sunday nights and other occasional messages, and between July and December we distributed 27 issues of the newsletter. Average open rate for the weekly newsletter has increased from about 30% in Spring 2019 to over 50% now.
- Fall 2020 was a challenging semester, given that all programs and services were virtual and faculty members were struggling with workload issues and pandemic-related issues, but the Faculty Center maintained engagement and worked to create a sense of community in these difficult times.

## Future Directions

- Spring 2021 programs will once again be completely online.
- We are bringing 2 new Administrative Faculty Center Fellows on-board to provide support and programming for administrative faculty.
- We will continue to focus on building small groups and faculty learning communities rather than drop-in, one-time workshops.
- We will conduct targeted outreach to tenured faculty (associate and full professors) not currently using services or attending events.
- We will offer additional programming and outreach to part-time instructors, including the January 2021 professional development event organized through the Provost's office.

## Staffing Needs

- When we reopen the physical space and offer face-to-face programming, we need front-desk staffing – either additional student workers or a full-time administrative assistant.
- In order to enhance programs to support research, we need a half-time dedicated staff member to work with the Office of Research and faculty members to plan programs on this topic.
- We need a graduate student employee who can manage communications (newsletter, social media) in order to free the Associate Director's time for programs and mentoring.

# Programming

## Workshop & Learning Community Themes

Faculty Center Fellows are key to our programs – their unique areas of expertise and their research/teaching interests impact what we are able to offer. Their dedication to supporting other faculty members makes it possible for us to offer a robust schedule of services and programs even though our full-time staff consists of just the Associate Director and Program Officer.

The Faculty Center's programs focus on three distinct areas: Teaching, Research, and Career Development. Each program is categorized into one of these three areas, although some may have elements from multiple areas. In Fall 2020 we hosted 5 standalone events and 8 different groups or learning communities that met regularly.

### Events:

- Embedding Library Resources in an Online Course
- Why Didn't My Students Buy the Textbook? How Some UNLV Faculty Members are Using Open Educational Resources
- Where's Hey Reb!?: Discussing UNLV Mascots and if we can still be Rebels
- Workshop: Creating a Poster for Best Teaching Practices Expo
- Equipping Students for Future Success

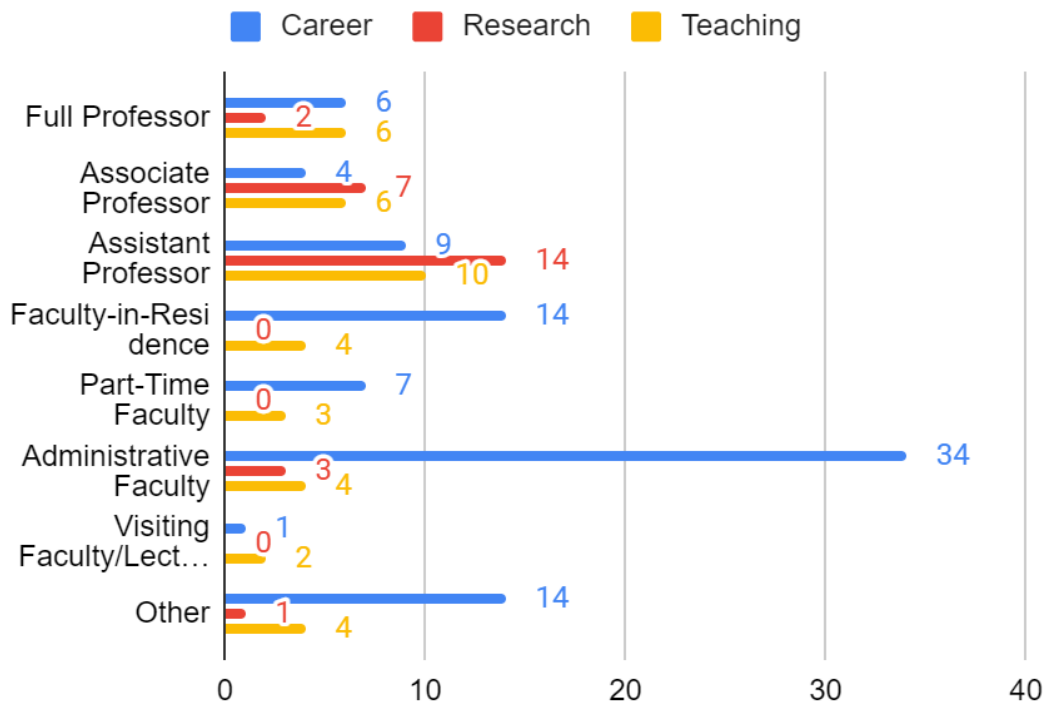
### Groups:

- Antiracist Reading Group
- Book Group: How to Write A Lot
- Mindful Meditation w/ Dr. Donna Costa
- Non-Tenure Track Mentoring Group
- Philosophy of Education Society
- Learning Community on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Teaching & Learning in the Diverse Classroom: edX course
- Tenure-track Mentoring Group

## Attendees by Type and College

The following chart highlights which faculty types attended events in the three categories of career-planning, research, and teaching.

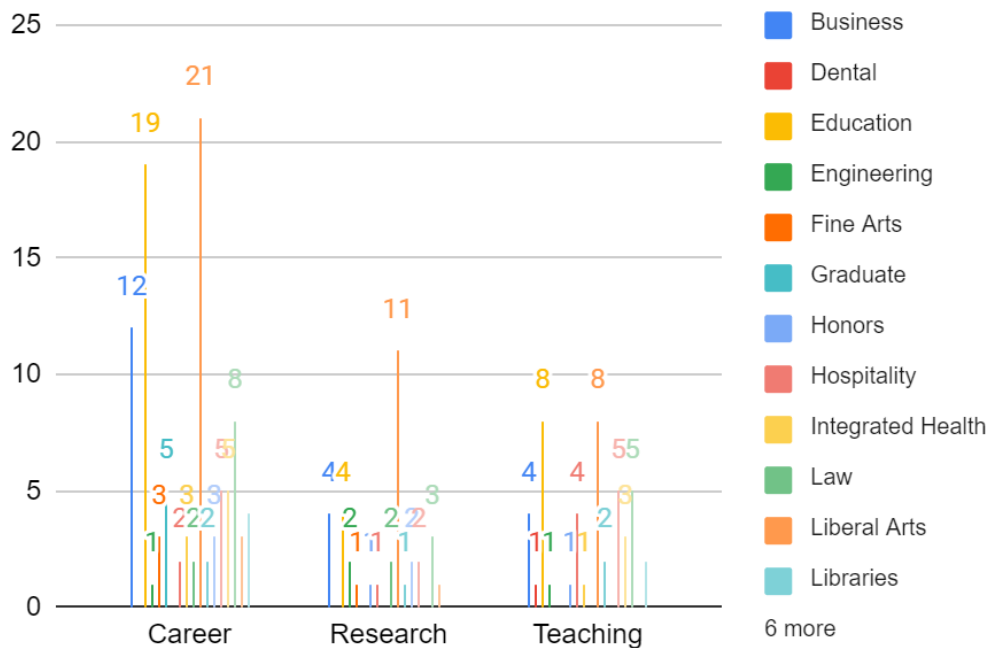
### Faculty Attendance All Ranks



Most of our participants are Assistant Professors and Administrative Faculty. We will conduct strategic outreach with tenured faculty members (Associate and Full Professors) and with part-time faculty in the future.

**Colleges/Units Represented:**

Attendance by College/Unit



Most of our attendees come from Liberal Arts and Education.

## Selection Committees for Teaching Awards

We managed the awards process for the Foundation/Regents' Distinguished Teaching Award in Fall 2020 and selected outstanding winners. The awards committee was once again very helpful in proposing changes to the process, so we continue to improve communication, criteria, and rubrics for the teaching awards.

## Feedback from Fall 2020 Participants

At the end of the semester we sent a survey to 172 faculty members who had participated in Faculty Center events. We asked them to take a moment to “let us know how we have impacted your work this semester, and what we can do going forward in order to best serve your needs and interests.” From the 23 responses received, 71% were “extremely satisfied” with the programs attended or services used and the remaining 29% were “somewhat satisfied.”

### Comments in response to the question “What did you learn from a Faculty Center event or service that you will use in your work?”

- I had a teaching observation that offered some insight on elements of the classroom environment that I had not considered before.
- Because I've attended many of these workshops, the book group was a great opportunity to engage with faculty from other units about their teaching/research balance.
- The Philosophy of Education Society delves into deep questions about what we do and why. Regularly meditating on these issues strengthens my pedagogy, and doing it with my peers creates a meaningful sense of community.
- The book group on How to Write More was helpful in creating a sense of community around writing challenges and some parts of the book provided helpful practical tips I have been using.
- There have been a number of resources shared in the learning community that are helpful. The most important thing may be new relationships.

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