



SPRING 2021 FACULTY CENTER ASSESSMENT REPORT

UNLV Faculty Affairs
June 2021
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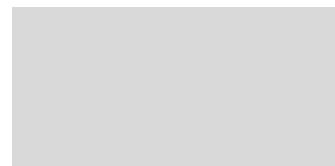


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Spring 2021 Faculty Center Events & Services

Services & Programs

1. Best Teaching Practices Expo
2. Part-Time Instructor Development Event
3. Workshops on teaching, research, and career development/wellness
4. Learning communities, book group, writing groups
5. Teaching observations & one-on-one consultations
6. Selection committees for Teaching Awards (Spanos, SOTL, PTI)
7. Communication via newsletter and social media
8. Website with resources, request forms, and news

Outcomes Overview

- Our signature annual event, the Best Teaching Practices Expo, was online-only for the first time in 2021 and had outstanding engagement. Online [posters](#) had 1,140 downloads (as of June 2021) and stories about presenters in UNLV Today were widely read:
 - [Delivering Education on a Phone](#): 222 clicks
 - [Virtual Realities, Real-World Experiences](#): 190 clicks
 - [College Isn't Expensive Torture! Any Questions?](#): 197 clicks
 - [Farewell to the Traditional Group PowerPoint Presentation](#): 367 clicks
- We collaborated with colleagues from the Provost's Office and others around campus to offer a new event, a Professional Development Day for Part-Time Instructors, and had 485 instructors complete the program. In a post-workshop survey, 93% of respondents were either "extremely satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the event.
- We sponsored a student panel regarding a year of remote learning, which was one of our most popular topics of the semester.
- Operating completely remotely once again in Spring 2021, we sponsored a variety of mentoring groups and learning communities that met regularly in order to support a sense of connectedness for faculty.
 - Mentoring groups for tenure track, non-tenure track, administrative faculty, and part-time instructors. The administrative faculty mentoring group was new in Spring 2021.
 - Book group on *147 Practical Tips for Emerging Scholars*
 - Learning communities on the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning and the Philosophy of Education Society
 - Weekly meditation sessions that are highly valued by the regular attendees
 - Writing groups that met weekly or bi-weekly for accountability and community
 - Faculty Center Fellows offered 2 one-on-one consultations and 5 teaching observations.
 - We assembled and led selection committees for three different teaching awards: Alex G. and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award, Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Awards, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. We engaged past award-winners in this process, and selected outstanding faculty members for recognition.
- 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.

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- We send a weekly newsletter on Sunday nights and other occasional messages, and between January and June we distributed 21 issues of the newsletter. Average open rate for the weekly newsletter remains at about 50%.
- We continue to improve and add to the Faculty Center website. The newest feature is the Faculty Mentoring Spotlight, a monthly story about a faculty member doing excellent work mentoring colleagues.
- 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.

Future Directions

- We will reopen the physical space in July 2021, welcoming faculty to drop in to the lounge and attend events and meetings in the multiuse room and conference room. • We have hired two new student employees to staff the front desk as we return to in-person operations.
- A colleague from the Office of Faculty Affairs, DeLyle Bowen, has taken on primary responsibility for the newsletter, social media, and keeping our website up to date. With her assistance, we'll make improvements to the website in Summer and Fall 2021.
- We have 11 Faculty Center Fellows for 2021-22: 6 are returning, and 5 are brand new. •

Summer Programs

- We are creating an online course for New Faculty Orientation that will have separate tracks for faculty: academic, administrative, and part-time. This will be reusable for future semesters.
 - We have a faculty learning group on the topic of Open Educational Resources that will run through Summer and Fall 2021, and then participants will hopefully serve as OER advocates in continuing programming on this topic.
 - In Summer 2021 we are offering training on RebelFlex, the new technology that allows instructors to teach face-to-face and bring in remote learners as well. This is a pilot program, and our collaborators include OIT and Online Education.
- Fall Programs
 - We are planning to revisit and reinvent First Friday: Research Lunches to bring in more STEM faculty and more mid-career professors.
 - We are creating a discussion series for Fall 2021 on Inclusive Teaching and will have monthly sessions on the topic.
 - In Fall 2021 we will open an online course for faculty on Educational Equity. • We plan to conduct a needs assessment regarding professional development in Fall 2021.

Feedback from Spring 2021 Participants

This semester we surveyed participants in the Part-Time Instructor Professional Development Day about their experience and their training needs.

In response to the question: How satisfied are you with the January 2021 Professional Development Program for Part-Time Instructors?

Answer	%	Count
Extremely satisfied	69.25%	349
Somewhat satisfied	24.21%	122
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4.37%	22
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.79%	9
Extremely dissatisfied	0.40%	2
Total	100%	504

Some sample responses to the question "What did you learn from this workshop that you will use in your teaching?"

- I enjoyed learning about how to remove barriers to office hours. I have noticed that my students are reluctant to attend but I am trying to get them more open to the idea of attending. I hope to do this by explaining what office hours entail as well as help them understand that I am always available to assist them.
 - The information on discussions on WebCampus, and in particular on how to humanize instruction during this period of all-remote teaching was particularly useful. In the initial workshop session, I also learned about apps/plugins that I was previously unaware of--in particular, voicethread and flipgrid, which I am considering integrating into my class.
- Several things: 1. How to get more out of discussion boards and relate them to students. 2. Some good tips on tests and assignments. 3. Numerous resources for students that I was only tangentially aware of or not aware of at all. 4. How to understand student challenges.
- This workshop has offered an array of great content. The material on humanizing my class and creating assessments for remote completion was very useful for me. In addition, I particularly liked the tips Dr. Pritchard shared on preventing conflicts with effective communication, helping students in distress, and preventing academic misconduct. Lastly, I found the different overviews, including the coronavirus resources, very useful.
- I appreciate all of the modules that were presented, Humanizing the student experience stood out the most to me. Given the current circumstances with everything being online students are struggling. This training session provided more tools and insight for connecting with

students.

- I really enjoyed the students perspective on what they thought would benefit the online instruction. I feel I took away some nuggets of information that will help me connect on a better level with my students.

Sample responses to the question "What are your suggestions for future events or services for part time instructors?"

- I feel that these types of events should continue. It is important that PTI's feel included in the university. PTI's are an important resource for the university and they should be provided updated information and resources to ensure their success.
- Keep the online format, even after the university returns to on-campus operations. The option to view synchronously and/or review the videos is very convenient.
- Please continue to work with the various schools and colleges to have structured onboarding, orientations, refreshers, etc. for PTIs. This training module and the resources in it are the most comprehensive and structured I have seen after jumping in with relatively little introduction besides the required HR activities.
- I think if there are instructors that start late in the future, make sure they catch a training or have a little more guidance. I haven't had a bad experience or anything, but a little more support at the beginning would be good.
- As a long time PTI at UNLV, I greatly appreciate the increased focus on giving PTIs professional development opportunities and more resources. I would love to continue seeing more events focused on PTI development.
- Prior to the pandemic, professional development opportunities would occasionally interfere with work and personal schedules, so allowing this to be offered completely online was a godsend.
- I would encourage you to use this as an onboarding process for PTI's in the future.