“FACET advocates pedagogical innovation....”  
excerpt from FACET Mission

From the desk of Robin

Exciting things are happening in the FACET office. We have a new student worker, Tori Crosby, who will be in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays. Hilary Suitor is also working with the FACET office on uploading JoSoTL articles to the OJS database, a task that we have been working on for some time. We have also selected our first two Bender FACET Fellows to begin in spring of 2012. Subir Bandyopadhyay ('08) will be working on a project with Kimberly Olivares addressing fundraising. Donna Bowles ('09) will be working on a project to identify the needs of JoSoTL readers. Applications for the fall Bender FACET Fellowships will be due April 30th, 2012. We are also pleased to announce that we have granted our first FACET Programming Mini-Grant to Gail Rathbun, Director of the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching at IPFW in cooperation with their FACET liaison. The grant will be used to help pay for a speaker at their Fall Teaching Conference. We will continue to accept grant applications until our funding for the year is expended. Finally, Kimberly and I just returned from presenting at the Lilly Conference in Traverse City, Michigan (Teacher as Learner 2.0). Kimberly and Julie Saam ('06) will be attending the ISSOTL conference in Milwaukee to represent FACET and JoSoTL.

Teaching Innovations

Recently, there has been a thoughtful and timely exchange among FACET members surrounding tenure and academic freedom. Naomi Schaefer Riley, in her 2011 book, “The Faculty Lounges and Other Reasons Why You Won't Get the College Education You Paid For,” argues that academic freedom - and tenure - is essentially unnecessary in an academic environment that focuses on preparing students for jobs. Stanley Fish, a professor of humanities and law at Florida International University, in Miami, provides a useful description and critique of Schaefer's book in this blog: http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/11/vocationalism-academic-freedom-and-tenure/

In the blog, Fish describes Riley’s argument in the following way:

Tenure, like academic freedom, depends on a certain picture of what goes on in college and university classrooms — high-level discussions tied to cutting edge research into intellectual problems. Tenure protects the freedom of instructors to engage in such research. But in many classrooms, dedicated to vocational or corporate or political goals, that's not what's going on, and the instructors who preside over those classrooms need neither academic freedom nor tenure. Only those engaged in the “search for ultimate truths” do.

What are your thoughts? Please join us at the FACET retreat this coming May for an opportunity to discuss this topic with your colleagues. We would encourage retreat submission on this topic - the call for proposals will be out in late fall.

Campus Updates

IUB Bloomington Teaching Conference titled, “Making Teaching More Effective.” This event is sponsored by the IUB FACET group and will be held on October 6, 2011 from 10:30 - 4:30pm in the IU Memorial Union. Contact Carol Hostetter at chostett@indiana.edu for more information.

16th Annual Associate Faculty and Lecturers’ Conference October 14-15, 2011 Indianapolis Marriott East

The theme for this year’s conference is “Innovations in Teaching.” Keynote presenters are Jillian Kinzie from IUB, and Marcia Dixson from IPFW.

Peer Review Training at IU Southeast on October 21, 2011. Please contact the campus liaison for more details.

Planning Ahead:

2012 Retreat: May 18-20 at Potawatomi Inn in Angola, IN

2013 Retreat: May 17-19 at French Lick Resort in French Lick, IN

Please keep the FACET office abreast of FACET and SoTL related activities on your campus so that we might schedule our 2011-2012 campus visits accordingly and offer our support.

Campus Visits:

Robin and Kimberly will be visiting each campus to meet with FACET members, key teaching and learning stakeholders, and administrators.

Oct. 6th - IUB
Jan. 2012 - IUS
April 19th - IUSB