SoTL Cluster: Organizing to Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Project Draft and Action Items - July 20, 2003

Overview

From the initial conception through the work completed at the AAHE Summer Academy in Snowbird Utah the overarching purpose of this cluster has been to enhance the support for, value and recognition of, and practical application of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) on core member campuses. Institutions (i.e. core members) committed to this purpose are:

Buffalo State College	South Dakota State University
Dominican University	Southeast Missouri State University
Illinois State University (Cluster Leader)	St. Olaf College
Purdue University Calumet	Western Carolina University
Richard Stockton College	

Creating a culture on each campus where the role of the faculty, both individually and collectively, is viewed in a more comprehensive and integrated way, where equal respect and reward is given to faculty members who emphasize the scholarship of teaching and learning as those who engage in disciplinary scholarship, is central to our mission as a cluster. The implications of this mission are that the cluster must engage in activities that take advantage of the diverse cultures and resources of the core member institutions and conduct activities that will support SoTL on individual campus.

Representatives of each core member will contribute to the health of the cluster by adhering to the following **principles of association**. We will:

- Maintain communication with other members including sharing information on the AAHE Web Center
- Build support for the work of the cluster on core member campuses
- Develop and share resource materials to assist other members in their efforts
- Disseminate ideas and outcomes of the cluster's work in other settings (e.g., AAHE summer academy, CASTL colloquium, professional association meetings, individual campuses)

The core members of the cluster propose to conduct several **action items**.

1. Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster
2. Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions
3. Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster
4. Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions
5. Pursue external funding to support the work of the cluster

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Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)
Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster	1. Collect and share definitions of SoTL	1. Core member reps	1. 10/15/03
	2. Collect and share examples of SoTL work conducted by faculty at each institution	2. Core member reps	2. 10/15/03 for initial submission, but viewed as ongoing enterprise over life of cluster
	3. Share examples of SoTL work appearing in disciplinary literature	3. Core member reps; BSC (Scott Johnson) organize and compile	3. Submission by 10/15/03; compilation by 11/1/03
	4. Prepare a report summarizing programs and services designed to support SoTL conducted by each core members	4. Core member reps.	4. 10/15/03
	5. Share web resources (perhaps use existing resources)	5. Cluster leader	5. 2/1/04 for initial list with regular updates
	6. Serve as consultants to each other (e.g. peer reviewers, panelists, trainers)	6. Entire cluster	6. Individuals serve as able when requested
	7. Develop list of faculty at each institution conducting SoTL to enable collaboration (if not performed by AAHE Web Center)	7. Core member reps.	7. Year two

Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)
Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions	**Assessment of Cluster Goals** 1. Share existing survey instrument developed by ISU 2. Collect other existing instruments and data 3. Review collected instruments and data 4. Create a set of common questions addressing consumption & production of SoTL for survey instruments 5. Conduct baseline assessment at each institution using individual surveys that include the common set of questions. 6. Share baseline data with the cluster -- **Assessment of Cluster Action Items** 7. Review the web-site for activities for each action item (1,3,4) 8. Assess progress toward securing internal and external funding to support cluster activities	1. ISU 2. All 3. All 4. All 5. All Cluster institutions 6. All Cluster institutions 7. Cluster Leader 8. Cluster Leader	1. July 25, 2003 2. Year one 3. Year one 4. Year one 5. Year one 6. Year two 7. June, 2004 8. Annually

Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)
Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster	1. Communicate work of the cluster to campus groups through newsletters, teaching learning symposia, etc.	1. All	1. 2004 and ongoing
	2. Make the e-journal *Mountain Rise* at Western Carolina University publication available to cluster members	2. WCU	2. 3/01/04
	3. Share ideas and progress at AAHE Summer Academy & CASTL colloquium	3. All	3. 2004 and beyond
	4. Organize a session on SoTL for the 2004 Carnegie Doctoral/Research Intensive conference to be held at Illinois State University	4. ISU	4. 2004
	5. Communicate outcomes of the cluster and core members via the AAHE Web Center	5. All	5. Ongoing
	6. Core members will make presentations and publish manuscripts in campus, general higher education and discipline specific venues	6. All	6. Ongoing
	7. Teaching-Learning Campus Meetings/Summer Institutes: • Individuals from core member institutions will contribute to each other's events • Collaborate with other institutions outside the cluster to conduct events	7. Interested core members	7. Ongoing

Objective/Outcome (Program Objectives)	Activities (How will objective be achieved?)	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)
Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions	1. Tabulate effective strategies to promote SoTL at core member campuses	1. All	1. 7/15/04
	2. Disseminate effective strategies among core member campuses	2. All	2. 7/15/04
	3. Promote broader acceptance of the teacher-scholar model and SoTL within faculty review and reward structures at core member campuses	3. All	3. Ongoing

Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)
Pursue external funding to support the work of the cluster	1. Pursue local funding at each campus where available.	1. Cluster members	1. 12-01-03 and ongoing
	2. Identify potential funding sources to support the work of the SoTL cluster.	2. SDSU and DU with input from cluster members	2. 6-01-04
	3. Obtain initial grant funding based on the needs and accomplishments of the SoTL cluster.	3. One representative from each cluster institution	3. 1-1-06
	4. Secure on-going grant funding to support the SoTL cluster.	4. One representative from each cluster institution	4. Year four and beyond