**Teaching and Learning Advisory Council (TLAC)**

2016-2017 Annual Report to the Academic Senate

Submitted – April 18, 2017

**Introduction**

The Academic Senate has charged the Teaching and Learning Advisory Council (TLAC) with stimulating the creation of a campus culture that truly values, promotes, recognizes, and rewards excellence in teaching and learning in proportion to its stated significance in the university mission. TLAC is interested in:

1. Engaging the university community in dialogue about what constitutes excellence in teaching and learning.
2. Serving as a resource to the university concerning teaching and learning information, including philosophy, methodology, technology, science of learning information, etc.
3. Determining the needs of faculty members in their quest to achieve teaching and learning outcomes and assisting them to meet those needs.
4. Recommending policies for promoting and improving the impetus for teaching and learning excellence.
5. Networking with committees (where appropriate) to meet shared goals.
6. Recognizing teaching and learning excellence on campus.
7. Providing faculty with opportunities to encounter varied teaching and learning practices and to share expertise.
8. Supporting faculty in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for teaching and learning in a culturally diverse campus community.

This report contains a summary of TLAC’s activities fall 2016 through winter 2017. Much of the information in this report can be found or will be posted on TLAC’s website: http://www.nmu.edu/tlac/

During the past academic year, TLAC sponsored a peer observation program in conjunction with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), is offering a seminar in peer observations to add to the pool of peer observers for the peer observation program, awarded conference grants to faculty members to support their teaching, revised the submission requirements for the Excellence in Teaching Award at the request of the Provost, revised the criteria for the conference grant to be more inclusive to all faculty in AAUP and continued to work with the CTL Teaching Scholar to promote teaching at NMU.

**Report of Activities**

1. **Meetings**: The council dealt with some of its business via email, and held face-to-face meetings on the following dates during the 2016/ 2017 academic year: September 7, October 5, November 2, November 9, January 25, February 22, March 15 and April 12.

2. **New Faculty Orientation**: TLAC participated in the New Faculty Orientation on August 15, 2016 providing an informational table with handouts related to our mission, campus teaching resources, and conference grants.

3. **TLAC Conference Grant Awards**: TLAC awarded two grants during the fall semester and two grants in the winter semester, as listed below. Additional details concerning these awards are posted on the TLAC website.

**Fall 2016 Awardees**

* Kristi Edge (Education)
* Lisa Eckert (English)

**Winter 2017 Awardees**

* Gary Stark (Business)
* Bethney Bergh (Education)

5. **TLAC website**: The website has been updated with resources for faculty and was managed by the TLAC chair, Amy Barnsley.

6. **Peer teaching observations**: TLAC continued the peer observation program. Faculty members can request a classroom visit from a pool of volunteer observers to help faculty improve their instruction. Ten faculty members requested peer observations during this academic year. The following people graciously observed: Kevin McDonough, Mary Stunkard, Carol Johnson, Lori Nelson, and Amy Barnsley.

The chair of TLAC wishes to recognize the work and active participation of the following council members during the academic year Amy Barnsley (Chair), Kevin McDonough (Secretary), Tawni Ferrarini, Josh Sharp, Abby Cameron-Standerford, David Helton, Katie Menard, Kathryn Johnson, LaMart Hightower, as well as ex-official members Tom Gillespie, Rachel Harris, and Terry Delpier, and Beth Roberts for her assistance related to TLAC’s budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Barnsley, Chair TLAC