



E-Newsletter for Faculty

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Development, and Diversity
Office of the Provost

February 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As we near the halfway mark of the spring 2019 semester, there is so much in the works for Pitt faculty. In this issue of the newsletter, I'd like to call your attention to several significant events and opportunities occurring in the next weeks, including survey participation, nomination and proposal deadlines, and professional development activities.

FEATURED NEWS

2019 COACHE Survey Launches

In the past few days, full-time faculty (with the exception of clinical faculty, newly hired faculty, and faculty in some administrative roles) should have received invitations from the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) to participate in the 2019 COACHE Survey of Faculty Job Satisfaction. As noted in the Provost's announcement, COACHE is a national program operating out of the Harvard Graduate School of Education since 2003. The feedback you provide regarding your experience as a Pitt faculty member will allow us to compare to peer institutions and help focus our efforts. Faculty may remember that we [participated in the survey in 2016](#), with the intent to repeat it again this year. Broad participation helps to ensure meaningful results, so I encourage you to take the time to complete the online survey.

Pittsburgh Regional Faculty Symposium

On Monday, March 11, the University of Pittsburgh hosts the [Pittsburgh Regional Faculty Symposium](#). This day-long event, organized by the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education, brings together faculty, teaching assistants, and faculty support specialists from colleges and universities in our region to network and collaborate, share insights, and learn new strategies. [View the agenda](#) to preview the day's events, including interactive workshops, Recipes for Success sessions, Lightning Rounds, and more. [Register by February 25](#).

Open Education Resources

The Office of the Provost is inviting proposals from faculty from all Pitt campuses for projects to adapt, adopt, and/or create [open education resources](#) (OER) for an existing course. The Provost provided grants in 2018 for [11 projects](#). Proposals for funding in 2019 are due March 20. For information on funding range, eligibility, and more, view the [OER Funding Application](#). If using or creating OERs is in your plans, be sure to attend the March 4 [OER Panel Discussion](#) to hear four faculty members share their experiences with OER.

Title IX Comments

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher has shared the University's position on the Department of Education's proposed changes regarding the administration of Title IX on university campuses in response to the department's nationwide call for comment. In his response, the Chancellor calls for revisions to the DOE's approach and Pitt's commitment "to providing a learning environment that is free from sexual misconduct, harassment and discrimination." [Read the Chancellor's letter.](#)

Celebration of Newly Promoted Women Faculty

On March 6, we will formally recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women faculty promoted during the 2018 calendar year with the third-annual Celebration of Newly Promoted Women Faculty. All women faculty are invited to attend the event, which includes a discussion panel featuring experienced women faculty and a reception during which the newly promoted women faculty will be introduced. The event was developed through the [IDEAL-N](#) project and is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the [Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns](#).

ACC Academic Leaders Network Program

Later this term, the Office of the Provost will invite deans and campus presidents to submit nominations for the 2019–2020 ACC Academic Leaders Network (ALN) program. Pitt is able to nominate up to five faculty in administrative roles (e.g., department or division chairs, assistant or associate deans) to participate in this collaborative leadership program. Interested faculty should talk to their respective deans and campus presidents about the program and the opportunity for participation. Read more about the program and see Pitt's current ACC ALN faculty participants on the [Academic Leadership Development Web page](#).

Researchers' Writing Groups

Interested faculty can join other faculty in a voluntary writing program sponsored by the Office of the Provost. Because some faculty find it challenging to commit time for writing, this program provides a space for interested faculty to meet weekly for two-hour blocks of time dedicated solely to research endeavors. The Center for Communication, housed in the University Center for Teaching and Learning, coordinates the program. Contact Tahirah Walker at tjw88@pitt.edu or call x4-6592 for more information or to sign up.

Unionization Information Resources

As Pitt faculty and graduate students explore issues related to unionization, please remember that information is available to help you explore questions and concerns related to both. For information about the unionization process and what having a union could mean for you as a faculty member, visit [University of Pittsburgh Faculty Unionization](#). For guidance on discussing the process with graduate students and what is permissible in such conversations, visit **Guidance for Faculty and Staff on Talking with Graduate Students about a Union**.

Faculty Development Workshops

Just two more opportunities remain in this academic year to attend our First Tuesday of the Month Faculty Development Workshop series. Join us March 5 for “Dealing with Difficult Situations” and April 4 for “Overview of the Promotion and Tenure Process.” Registration is required for both workshops. Visit the [Professional Development Offerings](#) page or the [Office of the Provost Events Calendar](#) for more information and links to register.

New Website Design

The [University Center for Teaching and Learning](#) has launched a new edition of its website to help you find information in support of its mission to inspire excellence and innovation in teaching, learning, and scholarly activities at Pitt.

Mentoring Academy

The [National Research Mentoring Network](#) was invited to Pitt in 2018 and trained 29 faculty members across 11 units to provide evidence-based mentor training. The Center for Mentoring, housed in the University Center for Teaching and Learning, will be sponsoring a series of mentoring workshops, starting in early April, for Pitt faculty, facilitated by the NRMN-trained faculty. The full training consists of eight competencies delivered in eight hours. For each workshop attended, participants receive a badge. A Mentoring Certificate is awarded upon completion of all eight competencies. Please visit the [Center for Mentoring](#) Web pages for more information.

Teaching Center Workshops

The University Center for Teaching and Learning has a number of workshops scheduled to support faculty with training on instructional technologies, best practices, and other topics. In the next few weeks, take advantage of courses such as “Understanding the Background and Academic Preparation of Students from Chinese Cultures” (Feb. 28), “Advanced Syllabus Construction” (March 4), “Teaching Inclusively” (March 7), and “Time Management Strategies” (March 28), among many others. [View the upcoming events calendar for the full listing of workshops and additional information.](#)

I hope you are able to take advantage of many of these resources in the coming weeks, and please be sure to add your input to the COACHE survey. Look for one more newsletter in this academic year in mid-April, but, as always, you can find current information and upcoming event schedules on the Office of the Provost Web site: provost.pitt.edu/faculty.

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