Scholarship Circles Program

Purpose: To encourage faculty scholarship and creative development through informal peer mentoring in all disciplines based on voluntary faculty participation. Examples of scholarship circle activities would include informal presentations or updates on research, circulating drafts of research proposals, papers or grant applications for feedback or coordinating a visit of an outside speaker of interest to the group.

Activities – The format of each circle is determined by circle members. The aims of the program are to promote scholarship and creative development. Recommended activities include regular presentations of work in progress or completed, inviting guest speakers or service providers, sponsoring or hosting events on campus and regular review of one another’s scholarly work. It’s hoped that a scholarship circle would lead to collaboration and/or public presentation of the work of the scholars.

Themes – The themes of scholarship circles will be selected by faculty. Themes can be discipline specific (Social Science, Natural Science), topic specific (Asia, Health, Development) or both.

Process:

Solicitation – An email will be circulated on the Faculty list-serve and mentioned at a faculty meeting describing the program and inviting faculty to propose a faculty circle topic. This will give us an initial idea of interest. Once lists of faculty conveners and topics have been determined, the PC will announce a list of scholarship circles available in 2012-13 and their first meeting time and location. Conveners are encouraged to invite faculty members to join their circle.

Participation – All teaching faculty are invited to join in the circle. Advanced undergraduates or other members of the campus community engaged in scholarship in the field may be invited but only after receiving approval by a majority of the faculty members in the circle. The minimum or maximum size of a circle is determined by faculty in the group. While there is no established minimum or number of meeting times, circles must fulfill some requirements to count as a service activity for the convener.

Counting as Service – The faculty convener can consider their faculty circle as one of their service requirements if the circle meets the following requirements:
- Minimum number of participants: 6
- Minimum number of meetings per year: 6
- Provides at least 1 event or activity that is open to the broad campus community per year. Examples: a lecture, an invited speaker, an awareness event (all potentially could be experience events)

Support: The Professional Council will keep a list of scholarship circles and conveners. They will communicate this list to new faculty members and encourage their participation. Circle members are encouraged to ask for Experience Event or PC funds within the grant guidelines as needed to support the activities of their circles.