



Friday at the Center: February 4, 2005

Using Evaluations to Improve Teaching

The Instructional Development Committee and the Center are co-sponsoring a panel discussion on how to use on-line evaluations to improve your teaching, on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 2-3 p.m. in OMH 109. Stop by after Faculty Senate and hear Sharon Young and Ruth Ediger talk about working with their evaluations, and examine a sample evaluation from an anonymous junior faculty member with me.

Advising Notes

Since advising for spring quarter is rapidly approaching, here's a few suggestions to help facilitate the process:

1. Require that students see you personally, even if it is only for five or ten minutes. Studies have shown that even a small amount of personal contact with students is extremely significant for persistence and that our students wish they could have more interaction with faculty with respect to advising. If you have 20 advisees, this will be less than four hours spent advising.
2. Put a signup sheet with a variety of times available outside your door (or use Outlook), and email all your advisees that they must sign up for a time to see you **before** their scheduled time of registration. If they fail to do so, you should not feel compelled to go out of your way to accommodate them at the last minute.
3. Start the advising session by asking how the quarter has been going, what kind of grades they are currently earning, and if they have any pressing personal or academic concerns. Just listen to them talk for a few minutes. Then move to the question of what they will take next quarter.
4. Be aware of and direct students to appropriate campus resources to deal with issues of social functioning (OSL), finances (Student Financial Services), mental and physical health (Health Center), motivation and study skills (Center for Learning).
5. Address, to the best of your ability, questions of academic achievement, purpose, direction, and major. Call on the resources of the SAS counselors, the Career Center, and your faculty colleagues whenever necessary.

The February Grant Advisor

The February edition of *The Grant Advisor* can now be accessed through on-campus computers at <http://www.grantadvisor.com/tgaplus>. The monthly newsletter contains 20-25 full program reviews and over 300 listing of grant and fellowship programs, organized into eight academic divisions (fine arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, education, international, health, and other).

Upcoming February Events—mark your calendar!

- “How the Brain Works.” The President’s Symposium, with Dr. John Medina. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m., FFMC.
- “From Captive to Slave: Fungibility and Social Death,” this year’s Marston Lecture by Sandra Joshel, Ph.D., UW History Department. Thursday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., DH 150.
- “Multicultural Approaches in the Classroom,” an interdisciplinary discussion with Sharon Hartnett, Bill Rowley, and Bill Purcell, Cher Edwards and Nyaradzo Mvududu. Thursday, Feb. 24, 12-1 p.m., Weter 201.

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