**Local Planning Group for Professional Learning (Flex)**

**Notes of the January 29, 2015 Meeting**

**2-3:30 p.m. L-106**

Present: Christine Park, Chair; Rosa Armendariz, Michael Becker, Dave Belman, Natalie Hannum, Erlinda Jones, Janith Norman, Janice Townsend, David Wahl.

\*Remove Michael Yeong

Absent: Robin Armour, Paula Gunder (staff)

Staff present: Ruth Goodin, Mary Oleson

Approval of Agenda: Add Approval of Minutes

Added to Revised: Teaching Academy and Flex credit

Renumber Agenda items

Park called for a Motion to approve the Agenda with the above changes. Goodin made a Motion and Michael Becker seconded the Motion. All were in favor and the Motion was approved.

**Flex Convocation Feedback:**

Oleson submitted the final results from the Survey on Flex week and the Convocation. There were 34 respondents which is a much smaller number than in past years. She asked if she should share it with District PD. Members commented on the ‘harsh” feedback in the comments about the Convocation. Common comments focused on the length of the speakers and the overall length of the day. Some struggled to tie the theme into “teaching and learning” in the classroom. The last speaker was excellent but too short because time ran out. Greg Stoup’s slide was offensive to some because it only highlighted white men. It was noted that a revised presentation is planned.

***Park called for a Motion to approve LMC’s Professional Learning (Flex) Week and Convocation feedback submitted by Oleson and sharing the results with DW-PD and the Chancellor. Goodin made a Motion to accept the submitted document and Janith Norman seconded the Motion. All were in favor and the Motion was approved.***

# **Discuss fall, 2015 Focused Flex**

Townsend commented that the Academic Senate supports a focused flex on equity.

Wahl commented that the results could be unclear for Question 1 because it mentions Flex workshops and the Convocation in one question. There are more specific questions later in the survey. Someone commented that sometimes a low response rate is because of low feelings about an activity. Someone else commented that sometimes a low response rate is because people are satisfied and not complaining about an activity. Goodin and Oleson are members of the Post Convocation Committee at the District which will be working on follow-up activities to the Convocation. Norman noted that adjunct faculty were not listed on the flyer and there were some negative connotations from it. Townsend was happy to see that it was noted on pps. 13-14 that people were happy with the Jim Crow workshops. They will be working on Plan B and offering additional workshops during spring, 2015. In addition, Cornell West is coming to speak and there are 30 already signed up. She will also offer a follow-up on that activity. Park suggested doing a District-wide Teaching Academy on the Jim Crow topic. Townsend will follow-up with Joanna and Tess. Belman noted the tone of the comments and thought that there are some common themes emerging based on those comments.

Park suggested that the Call for Flex could be designed for employees who want to highlight tips and techniques that are helpful to others in their jobs around campus. Norman suggested workshops to boost morale. Oleson suggested workshops to better fill the needs of Classified,   
Adjuncts, and general morale issues. A member noted that there were many more positive comments on page 11 on. Many commented that departments want to meet and connect here on campus. LPG’s recommendation on Convocation: Do a different format on a different day; have breakout sessions conference-style, not during Flex week. Not on a mandatory day. Do it on an additional added day.

Tech Summer Institute Question: 60% maybes, 18% yes, 27% no

Diputado does not think people would show up based on those responses. Perhaps we should offer more workshops during the semester.

Variable Flex Forms - There were no new requests.

Teaching Academy - Park explained the Teaching Academy, a district-wide program for faculty conducted on-line that provides an opportunity for to move up the salary scheduled. The policy established has been that instead of earning one credit, if you have already hit your step limit, you can get 10 hours of variable flex credit. Townsend thought you can get both. Oleson confirmed that several discussions took place with Gene Huff in resolving this issue, with the outcome being that faculty could earn one or the other, district credit OR flex credit. Another member commented that because this is district-offered coursework and not by an academic institution offering faculty credit, it is an “either/OR” situation. Members mentioned that you can earn up to 10 hours maximum variable flex credit for a 40-hour class like the Teaching Academy.

Park called for a Motion to clarify the language for the Teaching Academy: “you can earn up to 10 hours of variable flex credit OR 1-unit of district credit for participation in a semester of the Teaching Academy”. Townsend made a Motion and Armendariz seconded the Motion to approval the clarification of the language. Norman and Becker abstained from voting. All others were in favor and the Motion was approved.

***Park called for a Motion to approve all current and future Teaching Academies for Flex credit. Goodin made a Motion and Townsend seconded the Motion. All were in favor and the Motion was approved.***

# **Program Review Trainings and Flex**

All departments have to work on Program Review. A member commented that training the department on how to do program review is not eligible for flex credit (Belman).

Park called for a Motion to approve flex credit for Program Review trainings for fall, 2014 and spring, 2015 . Townsend made a Motion and Armendariz seconded the Motion. Dave Belman abstained. All other members were in favor and the Motion was approved.

The Deans can sign off on attendance during fall, 2014 and spring, 2015 on the Faculty Agreement forms and next academic year, the Program Review training submitted by Kiran Kamath will be pre-approved for Flex credit and will be posted on-line for registration. Park will “close the loop” with Kiran and will follow up with Oleson.

PDAC members overall liked the selection of presenters at Convocation. Park suggested as an idea: Innovations road show. Other ideas? Townsend - Equity - she reported to Academic Senate that equity would be focus of next focused flex. Norman - suggested Best Teacher Strategies - Columbia University. Norman stated that she shares these articles with her students.

Goodin - suggested a keynote. Broaden it to include students (tutors, ambassadors, student employees and managers). Equity, teaching, classified strategies. How to do our jobs better, together. Customer Service workshop (students, classified, managers). Townsend - knows a speaker. Goodin - Who is the planning team for this? Strategies on our jobs with equity enhancement (each workshop for management, classified, customer service strategies.

Oleson - get reps from Senates, plan in March. Oleson noted that if the focus on equity is worded similar to LILO, you will get the same people and suggested creating new language to draw a more diverse group to the event.

Park and Oleson will look at Flex proposal deadline and timelines.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Notes submitted by M. Oleson