

9-13-2016

## Academic Affairs Weekly Update 9-18-16

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## Academic Affairs Weekly Update 9-18-16

Colleagues,

We hope your second week of classes went smoothly and that everyone is starting to settle into the semester. We continue to move forward with changes in support of our new structure and the Clusters & Open Labs initiative.

We are preparing to launch the search for the Director of the *Center for Transformation through Teaching, Leadership, and Lifelong Learning*. You may recall in our **new structure**, this center falls in the circle called *Research, Pedagogy, & Transformation*. The *Center for Transformation* will continue to support the pedagogical needs of faculty now provided by CETL while also serving faculty, staff, students, and community engaged in ongoing personal and professional development. Elaine Allard, Interim Dean of the Library, will chair the search.

While we await the new director, Carolyn Kinane, [kkinane@plymouth.edu](mailto:kkinane@plymouth.edu), and Josh Perks, [jperks@plymouth.edu](mailto:jperks@plymouth.edu), can assist you in finding workshops to support your professional development needs. There are several technology-based workshops scheduled over the next two weeks that will appear on the center's calendar asap (the site is presently being revised). Please see the campus communication that went out last Friday from JoAnn Guilmett with the complete list or contact Josh for assistance.

If you haven't been out to the **Integrated Clusters** website lately, we invite you back! You'll find the President's blog posts on clusters along with an archive of all of Academic Affairs weekly updates. On the site, we also invite you to engage in clusters in a variety of ways. First, we ask all members of the faculty and staff to complete a **personal profile and interest survey** to help us catalog and share all of the amazing skills and know-how we have on campus that can be applied to cluster and open lab projects. We've already received 100 submissions! Let's keep the momentum going!

We also invite faculty and staff to submit a **project proposal**. If your proposal request involves release time (whether from teaching or service for faculty or from a set of specific job tasks for staff), we encourage you to be speaking with your department chair or supervisor as you develop your proposal. Whether the proposal involves a request for funding or not, we'd like you to complete the proposal process to let the Guides know what you're working on. That's one of the best ways we can look for connections and synergies within and across clusters. (You'll want to scroll to the bottom of the **webpage** to find the links to proposal forms.) Finally, we want to thank all who have submitted a **quick idea**. This is a way to submit an idea for a cluster project that isn't fully formed or for which you'd like some feedback or help getting underway. We invite you to submit a **quick idea** too!

A hearty *shoutout* to our Cluster Guides who are doing a terrific job of gathering groups together and facilitating the launch of the clusters. We are in the process of assessing where we are in the process and setting key objectives for the remainder of the year. We'll share more related to those activities in a future update.

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Hope your week gets off to a great start!

Cynthia, Gail, & Robyn

The Academic Dean Team

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