

Faculty Preparation for UPA Seminar

Meeting notes (30 Jul – 2 Aug 01)

1. Seminar to be face-to-face (1.20 to 2.20 pm, Mon to Fri) and online (via WebCT and notebook computers)
2. Time frame
 - All year round but with emphasis on the beginning and end
 - Beginning: provide a framework
 - End: Ensure students see the big picture
3. Pan or interdisciplinary in nature
4. Students to find a mentor depending on learning preference, personal style, and area of interest
5. Seminar to provide elements of counseling (e.g. not being the smartest one in class any more; learning about oneself or one's learning style, etc.)
6. Ideas to possibly incorporate into seminar
 - Idea 1*
 - All faculty and students watch selected episode(s) of the "Connections 2" video series by James Burke
 - Or read "Consilience" by Edward Wilson
 - Each faculty provides perspective from own experience and background
 - Idea 2*
 - Thematic months or semesters (e.g. ethics)
 - Idea 3*
 - Topics suggested and shaped by staff and students
 - Idea 4*
 - Forming focus discussion groups depending on areas of interest and current events (e.g. shootings in school)
 - Idea 5*
 - Invite interesting guest speakers to share their experiences and/or research interests
 - Or get students to share their interests/personal projects
 - Idea 6*
 - Provide opportunities for cultural exchange

Suggestion: Faculty to establish a consistent way handling exceptionally sensitive topics

Contact information

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Objectives of WebCT training for academy faculty

Faculty will be able to:

- describe their role as online mentors
- actively participate in online discussions using WebCT
- construct their own discussion areas in WebCT
- generate ideas that will contribute to the continuity and usefulness of seminar

Proposed online discussion areas for faculty

1. Introductions and fun facts
2. Professional development (e.g. membership to relevant organizations, readings, etc.)
3. Café (e.g. for non-academic topics)
4. Tips on using WebCT/online mentoring/posting
5. Ideas for seminar
6. Questionnaire
 - What is your role in UPA? (Please also describe your background briefly.)
 - What are your general goals in your involvement with UPA?
 - What problems do you foresee that may prevent you from reaching those goals?
 - Have you participated in a distance course and/or online mentoring activity?
 - If so, please describe that experience briefly and honestly.
 - What would you like to see incorporated into seminar and why?