Fostering Interdisciplinary Curricular and Faculty Development

Adelia Williams, Pace University

Kathleen Moore, Oakland University

Kristin Sobolik, University of Maine

Fostering Interdisciplinary Curricular and Faculty Development

Adelia Williams, Pace University
- Private urban/suburban comprehensive university with 3 campuses and 7 sites in the NY metro area
- Just under 13,000 Students, 64% undergraduate, 36% percent graduate/professional
- Four Schools/Two Colleges
- One of three Associate Deans in the College of Arts and Sciences,
- Curriculum Development, new programs, oversee 6 departments, special projects

Kathleen Moore, Oakland University
- State-supported university, doctoral/research
- 19,000 students
- Diverse associate dean responsibilities
  - STEM, interdisciplinary, graduate, secondary

Kristin Sobolik, University of Maine
- Doctoral-granting, land-grant public institution
- High research productivity
- 11,400 students
- Associate Dean for Research and External Affairs
- Other Associate Dean for Academic and Student Services

Fostering Interdisciplinary Curricular and Faculty Development

- Administrative Challenges
- New Academic Programs
- Disciplinary Initiatives
- Faculty Development

- Questions

Administrative Challenges

Oakland University
- General structural issues/impediments
  - Unionized environment resistant to change
  - Program director problems/solutions
    - Leveraging faculty resources
- Department of Music/Theatre/Dance seeks "School" status

University of Maine
- Departmental administrative challenges
  - School of Performing Arts - formed in 1997
    - Dept of Music; Dept of Theatre/Dance
    - Not a happy initial merger
    - Kept Divisions and Chairs along dept lines; next move to one Director
  - School of Computing and Information Science - formed this year
    - Dept of Computer Science; Dept of Spatial Engineering
    - Issues of grad/undergrad; resources; leadership
    - Have Director (Spatial) and Assoc Dir (Computer Science)

New Academic Programs

Pace University
- B.A. in Film and Screen Studies
  - Creating a new administrative structure, interdisciplinary, cross-departmental
  - Turf wars; personality issues; leadership; curricular development; ownership

Oakland University
- B.A. in Liberal Studies
  - Developing a college-wide program for FTIAC students
  - Contending with a university-wide BGS program

University of Maine
- B.S. in Climate Change and Culture
  - Cross-departmental (Anthropology and Earth Sciences)
  - Administrative issues: resources; counting majors; advising

Disciplinary Initiatives

University of Maine
- UMaine Humanities Initiative
  - Create organizational structure for programming, funding, development
  - Issues in faculty buy-in; everyone on board?; what direction to go in
  - Want to create a Center; need funding

Pace University
- Blended and online teaching
  - Issues of intellectual property
  - Stipends and banked credit

Faculty Development

Pace University
- Chinese Studies and East Asian Studies
    - Building on Strengths
    - Faculty Seminar
    - Collaboration, connection, and cooperation

Oakland University
- Interdisciplinary teaching
    - Use of new program budgets and other incentives
- Interdisciplinary research
    - Moving toward areas of strength

University of Maine
- Fellowships
    - Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowships
        - $16/$1 Return on Investment
    - Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Fellowships
        - Stipend and funding for resources

Questions?