

Innovation Center Council Committee

End of the Year Report:

Fall 2016 (includes Summer 2016) through Spring 2017

Members: *Robert Eisenstadt, Paula Griswold, Tammy Johnson, Charles Hughes, Tommie Church, Mary Elizabeth Bridges, Girish Shah, Kris Bista, Mara Loeb, Joydeep Bhattacharjee, Cliff Tresner*

The council and the co-chairs met more than 12 times over the academic year. The Innovation Council has made progress in developing strategies to stimulate innovation and collaboration at the university.

Submitted by Joydeep Bhattacharjee and Cliff Tresner

- During the Summer of 2016, Mary Elizabeth took the lead in getting the AIC room prepared for the upcoming school year. This included outfitting the room with temporary furniture, signage, promotional items, artwork, and in general preparing for the University Week event open house.
- The Fall of 2016 began with the open house. The event was an informal affair with the goal of introducing the Academic Innovation Council and highlighting the facilities and upcoming opportunities. This event was well attended.
- The council was provided with a budget for the academic year. Many of the Fall 2016 meetings were centered around discussion of funds allocation and putting the support system in place for room usage (webpage development, technology, furniture).
- The mission and vision statements were revised, finalized, and approved by the VPAA.
- Over the course of the semester, the council set a goal to organize two events: 1. *Utilizing SMART Board Technology to Enhance Teaching* (Presenters: Sanjay Manandhar and Amy Weems). This interactive workshop demonstrated innovative ways to utilize the SMART Board technology in the classroom. 2. *Visiting Loyola Innovation Center*. A council member was in the process of organizing a site visit to the innovation center on Loyola's campus for the ULM team. This event did not come to fruition. The council member in charge of the event was reassigned by the administration and changes were made concerning Loyola's Innovation Center.
- The Spring semester began with an AIC event as a part of the University Week. The event titled *Academic Innovation Center - Vision and Implementation* was well attended. Topics were the Vision and Mission of the AIC, promoting collaboration and innovation, room usage, and grant opportunities. The council solicited general feedback from faculty on - *What would you like to see in an Academic Innovation Center?* The feedback received is valuable information as the AIC moves forward.

- The council was subdivided into 3 sub-committees- guest speaker, furniture, and grants. This was done to streamline the organization of regular events in the AIC, expedite the procurement of furniture, and to develop an RFP document for the AIC grants
- The council put together a RFP and established criteria for funding a series of internal grants. Grants were awarded totaling \$9473.40 for the Spring 2017 semester. A summary of each proposal funded will be given during University Week, Fall 2017
- Furniture has been approved and is in the process of purchase.
- With improvements in the webpage the AIC can now be reserved in advanced. Many have taken advantage of room usage including events held by Communication program, English, and The Autism Center at ULM.
- In lieu of visiting other innovation centers, the Council members met (via Skype) with Dr. Tom Merrill, Director, Center for Innovation, School of Arts and Innovation, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH. In addition to the council members, this was attended by a School Director of Education. A video link to this presentation can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygdf9ndEdsA>.
- Feedback from earlier presentations and faculty week, revealed that while many faculty use smartboard technology; they do not have access to the software to learn its full functionality, since it is available only in smart rooms computers. The council has agreed to purchase licenses for interested faculty so that they may learn to better integrate its functionality in the classroom teaching, and present their knowledge during a future AIC event.
- 4 events have been scheduled this semester – 2 have happened and 2 are upcoming.
 - "Getting Started with Collaborative Research and Grants" - Dr. John Sutherlin.
 - "Collaborative Teaching": A panel discussion – Marilyn McIntosh.
 - "Using Clickers in Large Classes": A panel discussion – Marilyn McIntosh and Chance Eppinette.
 - A talk and interactive session on Innovation and Collaboration (exact title pending) – Dr. Michael Camille.
- To plan and schedule events the council members have been re-grouped in to 3 new committees for the Fall 2017
 - Academy
 - Publicity
 - Planning

Reports from these committees will be given at an upcoming meeting and summarized for next year.