

**Academic Innovation Center (AIC) Council**  
**End of Year Report**  
**Fall 2018 – Spring 2019**

Reported submitted by Todd Murphy (AIC Council chair)

AIC Council Members: *Eugenie Ardoin, Sandy Bailey, Shannon Banks, Mary Elizabeth Bridges, Tommie Church, Leigh Hersey, Todd Murphy, Heather Pilcher, Savannah Posey, Tarriek Rideaux, Rebecca Yantis*

The AIC Council officially met 8 times over the academic year. Progress continues in developing strategies to promote innovation and collaboration among the ULM faculty. The AIC in Walker 1-137 has become a premiere meeting location on campus, hosting approximately 60 individual events or meetings during the academic year (as of 1 April 2019). The AIC Council has placed an emphasis on scheduling events that promote faculty development. While faculty attendance to AIC scheduled events is adequate, an on-going theme is how does the AIC & AIC Council further promote faculty “buy-in” to the AIC mission & vision. A brief year in review follows below.

- Dr. Todd Murphy began as AIC Director and AIC Council chair at the start of the Fall 2018 semester. Time was spent early in the semester understanding, and better defining the scope & mission, of the physical AIC space, and of the AIC Council.
- During the Fall 2018 semester, a large focus of the AIC council was on the AIC Awards/Grants. This internal funding mechanism was renamed from AIC Grant to AIC Award in order to lessen confusion among some university departments. The AIC Council redefined how the proposals are scored, updated the AIC Award web-page, and promoted the AIC Award as an excellent internal funding mechanism for faculty. The council decided to move up the submission deadline for the AIC award so that awards could be made at the end of the Fall semester, and funds could be distributed early in the Spring semester. While this provides less time to put together a proposal, it gives PIs more time to implement their projects, and thus achieve better outcomes. The AIC Council reviewed 13 proposals and funded 6 for an award total of \$14,845 and an average award of \$2,474. Those funded will be required to present a summary of the outcomes of their awards early in the Fall 2019 semester.
- The AIC hosted presentation summaries from the prior academic year AIC Awards. In particular, one project was referred to OSPR as something that could lead to future external funding.
- Time was spent on understanding how to promote the physical AIC space as a meeting and collaboration space for faculty. We believe promotion of the AIC space has been successful, as it has hosted approximately 60 individual events or meetings during the academic year (as of 1 April 2019).
- Established the “Coffee Talk” series, where different AIC Council members host small informal discussions over coffee with those in attendance. The topics range from just

general discussion about teaching or research, to specific topics. To date, the following Coffee Talks have been held in the AIC:

- Hosts: Tarriek Rideaux & Todd Murphy; Topic: AIC Awards (9/13/18)
- Host: Leigh Hersey; Topic: Engaged Scholarship (10/8/18)
- Host: Eugenie Ardoin; Topic: General Discussion (10/31/18)
- Host: Todd Murphy; Topic: Virtual Reality (2/22/19)
- Host: Heather Pilcher; Topic: Louisiana Digital Library (3/13/19)
- Host: Leigh Hersey; Topic: Political Cartoons (upcoming 4/10/19)
- In partnership with the Graduate School and Dr. Elizabeth Oldfather, established “ULM Writes”, a series of days in the AIC following specific structured writing time.
- Hosted the Office of Sponsored Programs on 16 October 2018 for a seminar on how OSPR works for and with faculty to find and write grants.
- Hosted a panel discussion on “evidence-based teaching & active learning” on 7 February 2019. The panelist were Drs. Ann Findley, Cathy Newman, Matt Overturf, and Allison Wiedemeier, all Biology faculty. The idea for the discussion stems from ULM’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve learning outcomes in gateway Biology courses, developed as part of our SACSCOC reaffirmation. Ultimately, the teaching and learning strategies being implemented are applicable to a wide array of our courses. The Biology faculty shared several of their teaching strategies, and how they are implementing those for the QEP.
- In the future, the AIC Council will take over scheduling faculty development events for University Week. The council have spent efforts trying to understand the type of events faculty want to see. A survey was emailed to faculty on 25 March 2019 to solicit faculty thoughts and ideas for the faculty development events that they believe are most relevant.
- Upcoming events in the AIC include faculty presentations on their scholarly activities, a seminar on using Zoom, and we’re working with OSPR and the IRB to schedule a seminar outlining the IRB process.