

Teaching and Learning Initiatives

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce a series of initiatives in support of teaching and learning. There is a wide range of activities for faculty members to participate in, requiring varying levels of commitment and offering varying levels of support. For more information on any of these programs or to get involved, contact Fred Sweitzer, Assistant Provost and Dean of Faculty Development at sweitzer@hartford.edu

I. Book Discussion Groups

Join or convene a group of faculty members to read and discuss a book about teaching and learning. Some suggestions are available [here](#), but anyone is welcome to propose a book. The Office of the Provost will supply the books, a place to meet, and light refreshments.

II. Teaching and Learning Circles

Building on the success of the PowerPoint Circle currently offered by Ray McGivney and the Faculty Center for Learning Development, faculty members are invited to create or join a Teaching and Learning Circle. A faculty member will serve as the convener, and would need a commitment from 5-10 participants, although sessions are open to anyone. Circles should meet at least six times during the academic year, and can focus on any theme or topic related to teaching and learning. Examples might include service-learning, problem based learning, case studies, internships, teaching first year students, and so on. Members of the group take turns sharing ideas, posing questions or leading discussions. The Office of the Provost will provide meeting space, logistical support, and light refreshments.

III. Engaged Learning Fellows Program

The Office of the Provost will fund up to four Engaged Learning Fellows. Each fellow will receive a course release, pending approval from their chair and Dean.

Engaged Learning Fellows commit to implementing an engaged learning strategy in one of their courses during one of the two semesters that follows their course release. Engaged learning strategies include but are not limited to service-learning, problem based learning, and learning communities. Fellows also commit to mentoring others who want to adopt the innovation, assessing the results of their innovation, and recommending library acquisitions where appropriate.

Up to four Engaged Learning Fellows will be funded each year. Every effort will be made to reserve a fellowship for someone interested in relating diversity or global awareness to engaged learning and another for someone interested in using Educational Technology to support engaged learning.

IV. Conference Travel for Faculty Member to Teaching and Learning Conference

The Office of the Provost will provide full or partial support to faculty members who wish to attend a conference focusing on teaching and learning. Preference will be given to topics that have wide applicability across the university, and the faculty member will be expected to provide a brief summary, and to be available to others who may be interested in what s/he has learned.

IV. Workshops with Outside Speakers

The Office of the Provost will fund workshops each year focusing on Teaching and Learning. Past topics have included Service-Learning, Problem Based Learning, Learning Communities, and Cognitive Research. Anyone is welcome to suggest a topic or a speaker. Topics under consideration for 2008-9 include Teaching First-Year Students and the Art of Changing the Brain.