

REMAINING ENERGETIC AND ENGAGED IN THE CLASSROOM: THE SENIOR FACULTY CONSORTIUM

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ABSTRACT

This workshop is designed for senior faculty discussions about how to stay active and engaged in all aspects of a faculty position until retirement. Many of us have heard about or observed ROAD (retired on active duty) employees, but something in our work ethic nags us that we do not want to be around campus, if we do not feel we are contributing our fair share. But what should the contribution be after 20, 30, or more years? There will not be a speaker or panel, but all attendees at the workshop will be expected to be active participants.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Using the topics proposed for the 2008 DSI New Faculty Development Consortium as a foundation, the following issues will be the starting point for the workshop discussion.

- What does it mean to a faculty member today?
 - How is this different from what it meant to be a faculty member when you started in higher education? How well have you adapted?
 - What does it mean to be a new faculty member versus a senior faculty member?
- What are the rules of the game for post tenure review? Are you using it as a meaningful self assessment or is it just another pain from administration? Both?
- How is your teaching and pedagogy continuing to change? Have you conquered the technologies or have they conquered you?
- How are you staying current in the field and using this to continue as an active researcher? Are you AQ (academically qualified) to help maintain your institutions' AACSB accreditation?
- What does service mean to the faculty member who has served on every major committee at the university, as well as held a variety of offices in their professional organization?
- Do you have an ethical responsibility (the right thing to do) to seek out new faculty and mentor them, either formally or informally?
- Is this the time for a change of scenery? Should you go ahead and move closer to the adult children or aging parent and find a new position there? Is it time to move closer to the beach or closer to the mountains, so that you're already there for retirement?
- What are the future trends in the academy?
 - Do you want to keep up?
 - Can you keep up?

There are some recent encouraging words for senior faculty. The topic in the email distribution from Tomorrow's Professor on April 11, 2008, was "Can Technology Keep an Old Academic in the Game?" In this essay by Michael Rogers, he notes that he sometimes has memory lapses, but confesses that memory has never been his strongest suit. He then discusses ways that he can use technology, such as asking students to email their requests to see him, to help him keep track of the important things in his life. Also, a recent newspaper article discusses research in a forthcoming neurology book which presents the idea that the blips in memory that we call senior moments are a result of the vast amount of information we have acquired, and it is just taking a little longer to sort through all that information to get to a wise answer.

REFERENCES

Tomorrow's Professor "Can Technology Keep an Old Academic in the Game" 11 April 2008
<https://exchangeweb.winthrop.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>

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