



COE & FAUS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Monday, October 13, 2009

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Lorraine Cross, John Hardman, Ira Bogotch, Nancy Brown, Lydia Bartram, Brenda Cummings, Tammy Bresnahan, Cynthia Core

New Setting: Although the meeting was held at the Melby Center which has video conferencing capability, no virtual or off-site participants took part in the meeting. Thus we had representatives from the COE (3), Henderson (2) and Slattery present (2) with FAUS Research Coordinator, John Hardman facilitating the meeting.

Background: Pre-meeting Caucus: John H, Lorraine C and Ira B discussed next steps in exploring how to move from a COE to becoming a University Committee. Please note that this investigation is exploratory and that the decision to move from a college standing committee to a university standing committee has NOT been decided. The committee will schedule meetings with COE Dean Valerie Bristor and With University VP for Research Professor Howard Hansen. Mr. Glenn Thomas has been invited to our next meeting as we continue to explore this reform. What is absolutely clear is that YEAR 5 brings new and more complex challenges to the FAUS' mission to build a "CULTURE OF RESEARCH" at the expanding FAU schools. Not only do the differences in governance structures enter into the discussions, but so too do the nature of employment contracts and incentives to participate in research activities as part of one's on-going reflective practice learning. Each of the 5 FAUS sites are at a different stage of development and will require different strategies, albeit the models developed by Henderson and Slattery, provide us with insights and examples of success.

Lydia Bartram and Nancy Brown reported on research initiatives at the Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development, including the implementation of project-based learning, multicultural issues, and strengthening of the cultural ties between the center and students' families.

Action Items:

- 1. February 20th, 2009 was selected as the date of this year's RESEARCH MIXER.**
- 2. The name for the newsletter was decided: RESEARCH REFLECTIONS**
- 3. A decision to develop a TRAINING SESSION that moves from informal research and formal research to action research will continue under the leadership of John Hardman**

4. The Committee supported in principle the development of a survey instrument to assess research capabilities and needs in each of the five diverse FAUS settings; no dates were discussed for this work to be initiated or completed.
5. A consensus was reached on the goal of the FAUS sites as being/becoming **DEMONSTRATION SITES**
 - a. This would require outreach to surrounding school districts – a new initiative
 - i. Sharing out, consulting body, clearinghouse, promoting research, partnerships were presented as possible models
 1. Study Slattery-Head Start relationship
6. A consensus was reached on the goal to disseminate useful research findings

Discussion Items:

1. Revisiting the Role and Purpose of the FAUS Committee. Acknowledging that the scope of the committee has moved beyond Henderson and Slattery and beyond the topics of Action Research and IRB approvals, the FAUS Committee reviewed the state's mission statement for laboratory schools. We discussed barriers to meeting the "culture of research" objectives in terms of structures, geography, teacher and administrators' experiences, external mandates, teacher incentives.
2. New Research Agenda items:
 - a. Parent Release Forms
 - b. Non-merit based incentives
 - c. Assessing teacher expectations and research participation
 - d. Delineating individual and group research project within and across FAUS sites
 - e. Toppel Institute relationship
 - f. Identifying MORE outlets and opportunities to report out research results
 - g. Brown bag lunches – outreach to teachers
 - h. Understanding the Coordinator's role