UNO STEM TRAIL CENTER

Minutes for the UNO STEM TRAIL Center **STEM Council**
Zoom call 4/8/2020

Attendees:
- Christine Cuctucache
- Brian Dorn
- Kelly Gomez Johnson
- Chris Moore
- Patrick Rault
- Scott Tarry
- (Council Members unable to be in attendance were: Conrad, Dere, Gandhi & Tapprich)
- Responses from additional Council members were received via email & embedded herein as they were brought in for discussion amongst the team

Objective: Take a reflective look at STC programming (from 2019-2020) to proactively plan programming for 2020-2021.

Agenda:
1. Reflection on **PROGRAMMING** from YEAR 1 of programming (2019-2020). Key ideas shared were:

   1a. POSITIVES:
   - Seminars have had good attendance (diverse attendance—all Colleges, and non-UNO folks)
   - Participants say "time well spent"
   - Structure was successful: same day, same time; Ideal if it can be the same *location* too.

   1b. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:
   - Try offering more targeted marketing ("If you offer it for everyone, you offer it for no-one; e.g. while many of the seminars are broadly applicable to tenure-track faculty, GA/TAs, staff, etc, instead have a more personalized invitation/focus to include those that would get the most out of each topic—eg. "you have tenure, now what" to target Asso. Profs; e.g. Pre-tenure Faculty; "How to design a research lab from the ground up"; "Project Management for your Research Project")
     - In Tockify/MavDaily/RSVP, ensure that the *target* audience is highlighted, with an individualized RSVP to their outlook calendar
   - Targeted effort to encourage more units/depts to participate (some are notably absent)—Dept Chairs or Liaisons embedded in Depts to help message? Provide honoraria for these roles
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2. ACTION ITEMS for YEAR 2 (i.e. 2020-2021)

a. Provide targeted teaching practices support for TAs (Graduate teaching assistants @ UNO & UNMC –UNL/UNK invited)

b. Aim to provide more targeted visibility with Dept Chairs to share the messages for targeted seminars (e.g. Board of chairs & directors?-it's well-attended; Dept liaisons? Re-emphasize with Depts now what "has been done in year 1 and where we're moving toward for year 2)

c. Consider providing leadership training (e.g. Dept'l change efforts):
    i. STEM Dept Chairs have different specific kinds of challenges that non-stem program departments don't worry about. More likely to have GA's or undergrads doing labs. Likely to be more federally grant funded.
    ii. Sponsorship model for new faculty orientation: An invitation, not an obligation (There is nothing on paper that says: "This is what our program looks like to support you" for new faculty

d. Expand teaching support structures (Partner with CFE/TABS to provide observative feedback with or without assessment instrument to help junior faculty hit the ground running on teaching and help more senior faculty reignite areas that they're passionate about)

e. Generate a Reciprocal Mentorship Platform (to include offering mentorship to those across Depts so that faculty can network with potential mentors that are outside of their disciplinary area): eliminate a "mentor/mentee" relationship & instead focus on mutually beneficial relationship for professional growth & maximize on assets that both bring
    i. Have a designated point person to ask ?s of for first grant submission
    ii. Designated coach to help brainstorm teaching options

f. Consultant program: send those interested in learning IBL to a workshop or partner University to see how it's done; Hire consultants to help faculty reach their next goals if skillset isn't available in-house

g. Expand our offerings for STUDENTS (Friday programming)
    i. Networking
    ii. How to find jobs
    iii. Skillsets for 21st century
    iv. Near-peer mentor networks