SoTL Cluster:
Organizing to Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Final Action Plan Status Report – Spring 2006

Overview

The purpose of this cluster is to enhance the support for, value and recognition of, and practical application of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) on core member campuses. Institutions (i.e. core members) committed to this purpose include the following:
*   Buffalo State College
*   Dominican University
*   **Illinois State University (Cluster Leader)**
*   Purdue University Calumet
*   Richard Stockton State College
*   South Dakota State University
*   Southeast Missouri State University
*   Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
*   St. Olaf College
*   Western Carolina University

Creating a culture on each campus where the role of the faculty, both individually and collectively, is viewed in a more comprehensive and integrated way, where equal respect and reward is given to faculty members who emphasize the scholarship of teaching and learning as those who engage in disciplinary scholarship, is central to our mission as a cluster. The implications of this mission are that the cluster must engage in activities that take advantage of the diverse cultures and resources of the core member institutions and conduct activities that will support SoTL on individual campuses. Representatives of each core member will contribute to the health of the cluster by adhering to the following principles of association.
*   Maintain communication with other members including sharing information on the AAHE Web Center
*   Build support for the work of the cluster on core member campuses
*   Develop and share resource materials to assist other members in their efforts
*   Disseminate ideas and outcomes of the cluster's work in other settings (e.g., AAHE summer academy, CASTL colloquium, professional association meetings, individual campuses)

The core members of the cluster propose the following **action items**.
1. Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster
2. Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions
3. Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster
4. Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions
5. Pursue external funding to support the work of the cluster
6. Create an electronic data base of SoTL researchers
7. Establish the call for proposals and evaluation criteria for the Cluster Scholars Collaborative Grant Program

8. Create a document of preferred example language about SoTL for annual evaluation and tenure and promotion guidelines
9. Develop strategies to promote SoTL at the Departmental and Campus levels with recommendations for administrative support.
10. Submit and present cluster related work at multiple conferences.
11. Create an on-line resource packet of cluster products.

<u>**Cluster Action Category/Items**</u>	<u>**Status as of spring 2006**</u>
Share/create SoTL resources with other members of the cluster	
Collect and share definitions and examples of SoTL	completed
Prepare a report summarizing programs and services designed to support SoTL conducted by each core member; prepare SoTL campus support documents	completed by most members & via snapshot
Share web resources http://www.sotl.ilstu.edu/	completed via ISU SoTL & AAHE Web pages
Serve as consultants to each other (e.g. peer reviewers, panelists, trainers)	completed- multiple cross-campus visits
Develop list of faculty at each institution conducting SoTL to enable collaboration	completed (database)
Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions Share existing survey instrument developed by ISU and other cluster schools	completed
Review collected instruments and data	completed by some members
Create a set of common questions addressing consumption & production of SoTL for survey instruments	tabled
Conduct baseline assessment at each institution using individual surveys that include the common set of questions	tabled; some members did this in their own ways
Share baseline data with the cluster	completed for members that did self studies
Create Web Snapshot http://www.cfkeep.org/html/snapshot.php?id=9244212	completed; updated fall 05

**Disseminate information on the
work of the cluster to core member
institutions and constituents
external to the cluster**

Communicate work of the cluster to
campus groups through newsletters,
teaching learning symposia, etc.   completed

Make the e-journal *MountainRise* at
Western Carolina University publication
available to cluster members   completed

Share ideas and progress at AAHE
Summer Academy & CASTL colloquium   completed

Organize a session on SoTL for the 2004
Carnegie Doctoral/Research Intensive
conference to be held at Illinois State U   completed

Communicate outcomes of the cluster and
core members via the AAHE Web Center   completed

Core members will make presentations and
publish manuscripts in campus, general higher
education and discipline specific venues   completed but will continue

**Share and develop strategies
for promoting SoTL at core member institutions
including a T and P language document**

Tabulate effective strategies to
promote SoTL at core member campuses   completed; updated fall 05

Disseminate effective strategies among
core member campuses   completed

Promote broader acceptance SoTL within
faculty review and reward structures at
core member campuses   completed via T and P language

**Pursue external funding
to support the work of
the cluster**

Pursue local funding at each
campus where available   completed by some members

Identify potential funding sources
to support the work of the SoTL cluster
website   completed on ISU SoTL

Obtain initial funding   completed $5k AAHE grant

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Secure on-going grant funding to
support the SoTL cluster   tabled

Create an electronic data base of
SoTL researchers
http://www.sotl.ilstu.edu/sotlcollaboration/   completed 04

Conduct Small Grant Program
Write grant guidelines and criteria   completed in 04 and 05

Put out Call for Proposals   completed in 04 and 05

Select and Fund team grants   completed in 04-06- two funded

Submit proposals and present on cluster-related
work at multiple conferences
SoTL Colloquiums, Summer Academies, IS-SoTL,
Teaching Professor Conference   completed

Create final on-line cluster resource packet
Request and find useful documents created by
the cluster on Organizing to Foster SoTL   completed

Reformat, organize, put on line   March 06

Announce at final SoTL colloquium   March 06