



Faculty Forum

From the Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

CULLOWHEE, NORTH CAROLINA

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A Call for Opinions!

Are you pleased with the higher profile teaching now enjoys at Western? Are you confident that teaching is or will be a significant part of university policy decisions? Are there teaching problems not yet widely recognized on campus? Are there teaching strengths not yet widely recognized on campus? This publication will give you an opportunity to express yourself on issues such as these.

On the first of each month we'll publish a short opinion piece about teaching, written by a WCU faculty member. These need not be opinions that command widespread assent. In fact, opinions that are provocative and perhaps controversial will more likely raise the energy level of the dialogue on campus. And that's our main goal: to spark a lively dialogue about college teaching.

Each month we hope to get many responses to these opinion pieces, and on the fifteenth we'll summarize responses in a follow-up issue. This format will encourage a scholarly airing of differences of opinion, somewhat like the "point-counterpoint" section of many professional journals. We'd like to elicit sharp criticism in a context that is constructive, thought-provoking, and intellectually stimulating.

I'm currently talking with two or three faculty members who may be willing to write the first opinion piece, but I'd like to build a backlog for future use. Each piece should be limited to two pages single spaced. Editorial and secretarial help will be available upon request. If you'd consider writing something or if you can suggest issues for others to write about, let me know. A response sheet is attached.

Although this is an introductory article instead of an opinion piece, I'd like to have some responses to publish on October 15. Tell me what you think of this idea. Would some other type of faculty publication be more appealing to you? Do you think such a publication is a wise expenditure of time and money? (Each issue of Faculty Forum will cost about \$38 and may require 30 to 40 person hours.) What do you think of our tentative name for this publication? Can you suggest a better name? Your comments along this line or your reactions to questions like those raised in the first paragraph will be welcome.

The extent to which you respond as a group is the extent to which we can claim a community interested in thinking and talking about teaching. I'm eager to see how many faculty will take the time to respond. If this issue arouses a response in you, write back, whether it be a sentence, a paragraph, or a page.

Terry Nienhuis, Editor

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Terry Nienhuis, Editor
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Dear Terry,

Here is my response to the October *Faculty Forum*.

Name _____

Department _____

I am willing to be quoted _____

Please do not quote me _____

Return this sheet to the FACULTY CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE, Hunter Library