References


These collaborations may be in the form of organizing single workshops/seminars for communities (in cooperation with community facilitators/leaders), or designing faculty-led, year-long communities around their topics (as approved by the Program Coordinator and the Faculty Development Committee).
Serving as primary contact for Program-specific questions and concerns.

The Program Coordinator is selected through an application process in which interested parties submit a letter of interest highlighting suitability, and evidence of effective teaching (in the form of student evaluations, peer evaluations, scholarship of pedagogy, or letter of support from his/her department Chair). Applicants must have at least four years of teaching experience at RWU. Each Coordinator serves a term of two academic years, but may be selected for another term after going through the application process again.

Applications are submitted to and reviewed by the Faculty Development Committee of the Senate who will make recommendations to the Provost. Applications for Program Coordinator will be solicited during the Fall of the second year of the incumbent Program Coordinator.

Coordinators will be compensated by one course release and a stipend (to be announced).

• **Community Facilitators/Leaders**

Each FLC is led by a community facilitator (usually the person(s) who proposes the FLC) who works with participants to create a curriculum that addresses the specific needs of the group. The responsibilities of the facilitator include:

- Working with the Program Coordinator to soliciting and select participants for the community.
- Planning and coordinating all workshops/seminars for the community.
- Meeting at regular intervals (perhaps once a month) with the Faculty Development Committee or a representative of the Committee.

Ideally, community facilitators for the upcoming school year will be identified by the end of the Spring semester. They will receive one course release per academic year.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

The FLC Program will collaborate with relevant units across campus, including (but not limited to):

- Senate Diversity Committee.
- Instructional Technology.
- Learning Communities Program.
- Community Engagement/Experiential Learning.
- General Education Program.
FLC activities comprise mainly of workshops/seminars and social gatherings. The workshops or seminars are held monthly, and may be organized around speakers or reading materials. Though the nature of the workshops will largely depend on the specific group and its manifest needs, the ideal workshop will comprise of ample time for community members to share, brainstorm, problem-solve, and generally engage in dialogue with each other. They are generally between two and three hours long.

The social gatherings are unstructured leisure time that allow group members to interact with each other in informal settings. These can be in the form of “happy hours” after each workshop, and/or a dinner party at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters. The FDC will develop a set of general guidelines and suggestions for the activities and operations of the communities.

Each community accommodates eight to ten participants who are selected based on alignment of interests with the FLC. Community members receive the equivalent of one-hour of course overload per semester. Further details about the management and administration of these funds will be provided at the time of the awards. All funds must be spent within the academic year that the participant is involved in the FLC.

In addition, each FLC will be allocated $1000 for materials and $1000 for food and beverages. The Office of the Provost will provide all funds for the Program.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The FLC Program is faculty-led, so all positions within the organizational structure will be filled by current, full-time faculty at RWU. The major positions are Program Coordinator and Community Facilitators/Leaders.

- **Program Coordinator**

  The entire FLC Program is led by a Program Coordinator. The responsibilities of the Program Coordinator include:

  - Deciding the FLCs and community facilitators for the year.
  - Meeting regularly with community facilitators to identify Program initiatives and issues.
  - Reviewing and approving the budget requests of the community facilitators.
  - Forging relationships with other units on campus.
  - Market the general Program to the faculty.
  - Monitoring budgeting and equipment needs for the Program.
  - Meeting regularly with the Provost office and Faculty Development Committee.
MISSION AND PURPOSE

The FLC Program at Roger Williams provides cross-disciplinary forums that promote effective pedagogy and scholarship through mentoring resources, programs and dialogue. Its aim is to advance faculty professional development (with specific focus on college teaching), and work with faculty to cultivate an institutional climate that promotes professional advancement, and values diversity and excellence in student learning.

Objectives

The main objectives and outcomes of the program are:

- To create communities that foster the sharing of teaching, learning and research experiences.
- To create awareness of multi-disciplinary perspectives and approaches to teaching and scholarship.
- To encourage the incorporation of new elements (such as community engagement, instructional technology and information literacy) into the classroom experience.
- To foster inter-unit relationships on campus.
- To encourage collaboration and collegiality.
- To provide mentorship for faculty.

CURRICULUM

The Program comprises of up to three communities operating concurrently throughout the school year (September to May). These communities can be issue based (that is, constructed around a specific topic or need), or developed around a particular cohort in the University (such as new faculty, faculty approaching tenure, or international faculty). To ensure that the FLCs remain organic and relevant to the teaching and scholarly needs at RWU, themes for the communities will be solicited from the faculty body. In order to address as many needs and/or cohorts as needed, a FLC is expected to run for one year, but may be renewed for a second year depending on demand and interest among faculty.

1 Prepared by the 2012/2013 Faculty Development Committee of the Senate: Kamille Gentles-Peart (Chair), Kelly Brooks, Bilge Celik, Kelly Donnell, Steven Esons, Christine Fagan, Clifford Murphy, Ferd Schroth, Jeffrey Staats, Thomas Wright.