The Committee will discuss this issue with the Provost (who is scheduled to attend our meeting on November 12) before proceeding with revising the awards process and establishing the website. Specific questions for the Provost include:

- What is the timeframe for the opening of the Teaching and Learning Center?
- How will the elements that already exist or will be created (such as the FLC Program, the site for teaching resources, excellence in Teaching Awards) fit into the overall structure of the Center?

Adjourned: 12:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kamille Gentles-Peart, Chair
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting of October 22, 2013

Call to order: 11:11 am

In attendance: Kelly Donnell, Bob Engvall, Steve Esons, Kamille Gentles-Pearl, Linda Beith (Instructional Design)

Agenda

1. Site for Teaching Resources
   Linda Beith showed us the possibilities for a site created through Bridges. Some of the advantages of having the site housed in Bridges are that it would be on a platform that every faculty already knows, it would be password protected, it would allow all faculty to post materials, it can be used for polls and surveys, and non-RWU participants may be added if desired. She also showed us an alternative site developed through the library (LibGuide) that may also be a possibility. The site may be found at http://rwu.libguides.com/TeachingandLearning?hs=a. The Committee will take both into consideration before making its decision.

2. Revision of the Excellence in Teaching Award
   Kelly Donnell (and Gokhan by email) reported on the most common practices for the administration of Excellence in Teaching awards. These range from the very loosely organized to the highly structured. The Committee is in agreement that the RWU awards process should be revised to create a more structured model, specifically in regards to the purpose and nature of the award (to recognize as well as promote excellence in teaching), the rigor of the application and selection of awardees, and the criteria of selection.

   However, while willing to work on these elements, the Committee also realizes that to have a proper, sustainable teaching site and a rigorous, structured teaching award process, there has to be more institutional support. In other words, the Committee is concerned that it has been asked to carry out many major tasks that cannot and should not be done by a committee of the Senate, and that will not be sustained if not housed within a central unit. These duties (such as maintaining the FLC Program, establishing and managing a teaching and learning website, and overseeing and administering an Excellence in Teaching award) require a full-time staff dedicated to these jobs, and need to be consolidated into one central institution or center. Specifically, these should be under the purview of a Teaching and Learning Center. The Committee believes that its energies should be directed toward bringing such a Center to fruition rather than performing the jobs of the Center.