

Videotaping to aid faculty, GTFs

By Paula Green
Emerald Reporter

A promotional bookmark for the program states it very simply: "Watch yourself teach." But the program itself is a bit more complex.

In recent years, the University has pursued activities to enhance the teaching effectiveness of both Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs) and faculty. In conjunction with these activities, the Center for Academic Learning Services (ALS), along with the provost's office and the graduate school, is now establishing a Teaching Effectiveness Program to improve student learning.

According to David Hubin, ALS director, the program came about because "this faculty cared about effective teaching; they were looking for support for effective teaching."

ALS has been involved in the training of GTFs for about six years. While there were other departments on campus conducting their own training programs, there had never been a comprehensive program until now. Hubin credits Vice-Provost Joe Hines with "taking the first steps to say there should be something comprehensive."

Susan Lesyk, ALS associate director, said, "many universities, such as Stanford and Washington on the West Coast, are offering faculty the chance

to be videotaped. In the past several years, we have had numerous requests from our faculty to be taped."

Videotaping while teaching will be available to all faculty and GTFs, and is both free and confidential. The taping activity will include guided self-evaluation of the videotaped lecture, discussion, or lab.

Once the tapes have been made, Hubin hopes to add them to a small yet growing library of tapes and resources covering various issues in teaching effectiveness. Development of the library thus far has been the project of GTF Lisa Duba-B, who has assisted Hubin and Lesyk in getting the program off the ground.

Duba-B has spent the past few months researching similar programs at other universities. The hope is that faculty and GTFs "will find these resources useful in their teaching," Lesyk said.

The videotaping and the formation of a resource library, however, are not the only factors involved in the new program. To complement the taping, the Teaching Effectiveness Program is assisting the graduate school, which is sponsoring a lecture/colloquium series on issues related to effective teaching.

Thus far "Testing as Teaching" and "Cultural Influences on Learning Styles" have been presented, with two more seminars to be presented

this term.

As well, the teaching program will begin publishing a newsletter for faculty and GTFs that will cover various issues in teaching effectiveness, announce campus resources and programs, abstract current literature and provide a forum for discussion of effective teaching. The first issue will be published in late November.

"We are consistently hearing, 'I'm so glad to hear this is getting started,'" Hubin said.



Photo by Andre Ranieri

Susan Lesyk and David Hubin with a video camera that will be used in the new Teaching Effectiveness Program.

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