Seminary Faculty Retreat Minutes

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Sisters of the Presentation

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m. Susan Forshey opened the meeting with prayer

Theme of Today’s Meeting; ***Building Community in Dubuque***

**3 Immediate Impacts we will implement in the fall of 2023**

1. Adjust the schedule for Mondays (Beth McCaw will lead a group to present a proposal to Jim Gunn)
2. Assume responsibility for leading UG chapels on Mondays
3. Other adjustments?
4. Modify teaching approaches for residential classes, keeping in mind the needs of Methodist students. (Lindsey Ward will facilitate this with the faculty it impacts; Matt, Nick, and Susan to make their plans).
5. Invite the larger Dubuque community into the Monday community and/or classroom experience.

**New Ways to Explore** ~What new ways of being and doing community in and for Dubuque might we want to explore during the 2023-24 academic year to envision future possibilities?

* **Invite the Community**
* Seminary needs a new website
* Community Book Studies
* Utilize other spaces in Dubuque besides Alumni Hallfor lectures, etc.
* On-line lecture events
* Bring back the Rural Ministry Program
* CLP Conferences
* CLP in-person
* Pastors in our classes
* Reading Retreats
* Scholarship sharing
* Send chapel schedules to local pastors
* Daily prayer
* **Modify Residential Teaching**
* Synchronous Course for small groups
* Zoom in Distance students once in a while
* Mid-week zoom class
* Tutorials as needed
* Workshop based learning
* Collaborate classes together when possible
* Do 1 week residentially, Do the next week in Distance
* Flipped classes
* Allow CLP students into the classroom
* **Adjust Monday Schedule**
* Tables ~ go back to having a theme or goal
* Reinvest in Student Life
* Fall lectures, utilize undergrads
* Invite UD community to morning prayer
* Sharing scholarship
* Time constraints with morning prayer and classes starting at 9 am
* Move the Theology lunches to Monday

**Designing the Future~** Convert prioritized initiatives into an initial plan of action.

* **University** (Mark, Mary Emily, Susan)
* Push Seminary into the University
* Students in Discernment
* Invite to evening prayer
* Discernment Retreats for undergraduate students
* Faculty speak on faith to undergraduate classes
* Student Coaching~ Faith based
* UDST faculty show up for UD events
* UD & UDTS faculty work together
* University wide prayer response (to local/world events)
* **Face 2 Face** (Lindsey, El, Nick)
* Reduce physical time in August (concern is once you shorten you can’t go back)
* Standard pre-load
* Online learning for 1 week
* Face to face for 1 week
* Offer same classes
* Open digital engagement
* Communal experience
* Be a model for others
* Need Monday community
* **Dubuque Faith Community** (Sam, Nicky, Tim)
* Be a witness to the world
* Connect with local pastors
* Madison Learning Community a good example
* Lectureship Series
* **Satellite Communities** (Chris, Matt, Jill)
* Strengthen witness of the church
* Gain more students
* Equip Leaders
* Reflect on Madison Learning Communities
* Look at new geographical regions
* Research efforts by other seminaries
* **Laity/CLP**
* Faculty teach
* Maintain the current program
* Synod of the Rocky Mountains
* Drive the train with CapEd (we set the parameters)
* Offering 3 courses in fall (face 2 face) for the first time
* **Ranking Results**

1. Laity/CLP = 29 votes
2. Face 2 Face = 19 votes
3. University = 17 votes
4. Satellite = 12 votes
5. DBQ Faith Community = 2 votes

* **House Keeping**
* We need people to volunteer to help with the ATS report/visit
* A meeting needs to be set up (after May 22nd ) to include El, Brad, Beth and Mark to discuss the Thriving Congregations Lilly Grant that is due the middle of June.
* **Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.**