

Dear Colleagues:

We are proud of the strong tradition of teaching excellence at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. However, teaching assessment at UMSL and across the University of Missouri System currently ranges in clarity and specificity within and across academic units. Teaching that excels in achieving effective student learning must be assessed and rewarded in ways reflecting its high priority to the university, our faculty, and most importantly, our students. Moreover, resources and mechanisms for rewarding the excellent teaching on our campus are limited and inconsistent. UMSL faculty and other instructional staff deserve a comprehensive, clear, and meaningful process for evaluating their teaching as it pertains to their own professional development goals and opportunities for continuous improvement, tenure, promotion, merit, recognition, and other outcomes.

To align with a more meaningful recognition and reward structure for distinction in teaching, together with the other institutions in the UM System, we are excited to announce that UMSL is advancing on a path to create a comprehensive method for measuring teaching effectiveness. In consultation with the Center for Teaching & Learning, the Faculty Senate Academic Advisory Committee, the Faculty Senate Educational Outcomes Committee, and other stakeholders, the Office of the Provost has convened a Teaching Effectiveness Taskforce to leverage the foundational work previously started by the then-Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC), and where appropriate, adapt successful implementation models from peer institutions.

This Taskforce has four main goals:

- To craft a comprehensive definition of teaching effectiveness
- To propose a campus-wide, multi-measure approach for the evaluation of teaching
- To propose a system to support, recognize and incentivize teaching excellence
- To establish a plan to measure the long-term impacts of these changes on student learning and success.

To accomplish these goals, the Taskforce will ground its approach in research literature on best practices and examples from peer and aspirational institutions, relying on the expertise and ingenuity of our own excellent instructors. A campus-wide dialogue is necessary to solicit input from faculty and instructional staff at all levels who will be affected directly by any policy changes.

Membership on the Taskforce is broadly representative and will be supported by the Center for Teaching & Learning. We are delighted to announce the following faculty members who are serving our university on this critical Taskforce in the 2020-2021 academic year, and we thank Dr. Nancy Singer for her willingness to serve as the Taskforce Chair.

Name	College/School and Department	Title
Nancy Singer, Taskforce Chair	College of Education	Associate Professor
Kim Baldus	Pierre Laclède Honors College	Teaching Professor
Sanjiv Bhatia	College of Arts & Sciences, Computer Science	Professor
Baorong Guo	School of Social Work	Associate Professor
Keeta Holmes	Center for Teaching and Learning	Director, CTL & Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Innovation
Shea Kerkhoff	College of Education	Assistant Professor
Vanessa Loyd	College of Nursing	Associate Teaching Professor
Jennifer Reynolds Moehrle	College of Business Administration, Accounting	Professor
Tareq Nabhan	College of Optometry	Assistant Clinical Professor
Kurt Schreyer	College of Arts & Sciences, English	Associate Professor
Jeffrey Sippel	College of Arts & Sciences, Art & Design	Professor
Ann Steffen	College of Arts & Sciences, Psychological Sciences	Professor
Hiroko Yoshii	College of Arts & Sciences, Language and Cultural Studies	Assistant Teaching Professor

Periodic communication will be coming from this Taskforce to solicit feedback/input from faculty and other instructional staff, share its progress, and advance the UMSL and UM System-wide conversation on this important strategic goal.

Thank you for your dedication to our students and for your voice in this important campus conversation. Know that you are making a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

*Marie C. Mora*

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

and

*Keeta M. Holmes*

Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and Director, Center for Teaching and Learning

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