

Report for Title III Grant
Improving Instruction through Student Evaluations
Mary Boone Treuting

The current grant was submitted as an attempt to provide a knowledge base and support for the LSUA faculty and their utilization of student feedback to guide their planning and improve their instruction.

Objectives

The IDEA Center offers numerous workshops to assist campuses in the area of effective teaching and using assessment data to improve instruction. According to the IDEA center's literature, a workshop offered this year is designed to train current and future clients in the appropriate use of the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction System. The IDEA Center describes the purpose of the workshop as a way to develop a constituency of expertise on campuses. The specific purpose of the one and one-half day workshop is to provide participants with the opportunity to more fully understand IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction, to use it appropriately to improve student learning in the classroom, and to use it wisely to make personnel recommendations.

The description of the workshops indicated, the participants got practical experience in using and interpreting IDEA reports in a number of applied situations. Resources about student ratings of instruction were also provided. The dates of the 2007 workshop were February 5-6, 2007. The workshop was held in Orlando, Florida.

Activities Completed:

1. Conference Attendance

The support provided by this grant enabled four faculty members to attend the IDEA workshop in Orlando, Florida, held February 5-6, 2007. Faculty members from each of the two colleges attended. This allows some expertise in each college as the attending faculty members can now provide support to a wider array of colleagues. Faculty member volunteers were recruited through the Improvement of Instruction Committee and represented a cross-section of campus. Two volunteers were from the College of Professional Studies, and two from the College of Arts and Sciences. The break down follows:

College of Professional Studies: Tammy Lacombe, Nursing
 Julie Gill, Education

College of Arts and Sciences: Susan Sullivan, Biological Science
 Mary Boone Treuting, Behavioral Sciences

Names of the faculty chosen were submitted to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for final approval.

2. Faculty Fora

Following attendance of the conference, a series of eight, rather than the proposed 2 to 4, faculty fora were provided to the LSUA faculty by the faculty member(s) who participated in the workshop. The purpose of these fora was to disseminate the information learned as a result of the workshop in order to assist faculty in improving their instruction through the use of the IDEA forms. These fora were held in the spring semester of 2007 and an updated reminder was given at the beginning of the fall

semester. A handout and CD of resources was made available to all faculty. The “Team” offered any faculty member ongoing support in using these forms.

Budget Projected:

<u>Conference Attendance</u>	<u>One Faculty</u>
Registration fee:	125.00
Travel	245.00*
Lodging (\$134.00 x 2 nights)	268.00
Food (\$37.00 x 2 days)	74.00
miscellaneous (taxes, cabs)	40.00
TOTALS:	\$752.00**

*quoted by Navigate, (no state rate for Orlando, FL)

**Multiple faculty sharing a double occupancy room will reduce the lodging rate and result in a faculty cost of \$484.00 for two of the four faculty members.

Total Travel for 4 Faculty: **\$2472.00** (based on 2 double occupancy rooms)

Two - Four Faculty Forums

supplies: materials, copies	10.00
refreshments	25.00
Total Grant Request:	\$787.00 - \$2472.00
Total Grant Award:	\$2472.00

Actual Expenses:

Conference Attendance

Treuting

Registration fee:	125.00
Travel	275.10
Lodging	168.74
Food	111.00
miscellaneous (taxes, cabs)	21.00
TOTALS:	\$700.84

Sullivan

Registration fee:	125.00
Travel	275.10
Lodging	168.74
Food	111.00
miscellaneous (taxes, cabs)	4.00
TOTALS:	\$683.84

Gill

Registration fee:	125.00
Travel	275.10
Lodging	168.74
Food	111.00
miscellaneous (taxes, cabs)	4.00

TOTALS:	\$683.84
Lacombe	
Registration fee:	125.00
Travel	275.10
Lodging	168.74
Food	111.00
miscellaneous (taxes, cabs)	6.00
TOTALS:	\$685.84

Total Grant Request: \$2472.00

Total Grant Expenditures: \$2754.00*

(*actual costs of airfare, lodging, and food were higher than expected and quoted. Cost of faculty forums were subsumed by departments)

Actualized Outcomes:

As a result of funding this grant, the University benefited in a number of concrete ways:

- While 2 to 4 faculty fora were offered in the proposal, this team of faculty actually provided each department with a training session. Therefore, 8 sessions were offered.
- In addition, Department Chairs were given 2 sessions of information
- The team of 4 members comprises some added expertise on campus to help faculty in using and interpreting the IDEA student evaluation form.
- The Office of Institutional Research has been apprised of the change in student evaluation forms, and the new forms have been ordered and delivered to our campus.
- Each department was given individual instruction on how to use the IDEA form. Instructional CD's were distributed along with a detailed handout to each faculty member.
- At the beginning of the fall semester, reminders were given to all Department Chairs and faculty was reminded of the implementation of the new forms at the first faculty meeting
- Additional training sessions have been offered at the beginning of the spring semester to help faculty in the interpretation of the feedback they receive from student evaluations.

Submitted: Mary Boone Treuting
October 1, 2007