

## **Sabbatical Proposal for Gaylene Croker, Letters Department for Spring 2014**

### **1. Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this sabbatical leave is to research the various ways that academic blogging can be used in the classroom as an enhancement to educational discourse and as a way to strengthen the community among faculty members of Oxnard College.

Academic blogging is being used on college campuses nationwide and is gaining in popularity because this form of communication has an intrinsic appeal to students. It has been shown to enhance nearly any class if the instructor carefully scaffolds the project around the goal and the requirements of the academic b

**b. Value to Department or Discipline**

My project will benefit my department as I bring to my colleagues my findings on the best practices concerning how to use blogging



- 4) Pilot a blog for the teachers of Composition at Oxnard College. After a period of time, get feedback, assess efficacy, assess success, and consider changes.
- 5) Prepare a campus-wide presentation for faculty members who are interested in making blogging a part of their academic toolbox.
- 6) Write a detailed report of my findings.

**b. Projected Results**

At the end of my sabbatical, I will have achieved the following:

- 1) Thoroughly researched the issue of blogging as an academic tool and as a useful way to encourage discourse in academic departments.
- 2) Distilled this information into a presentation for other instructors, including a “How to Blog” blog for inexperienced faculty to springboard into this practice. Provided a bibliography on our portal for all faculty members who are interested in the research concerning academic blogging.
- 3) Be a consistent resource for other instructors in future semesters.

**c. Project Timeline**

**January 2014**

- 1) Begin reading research.
- 2) Begin pilot blog for Composition teachers in the Letters Department.
- 3) Investigate which colleges use blogs in their classrooms.
- 4) Conduct survey at OC to gauge current use of blogs and experience with blog platforms.

**February 2014**

- 1) Continue literature review.
- 2) Maintain department blog and assess participation.

- 3) Make contact with individuals at other colleges who use blogging, and contact those individuals for interviews.
- 4) Continue to maintain and enhance department blog, monitoring the use and reaction of faculty members.

#### **March 2014**

- 1) Focus on privacy issues concerning blogs.
- 2) Interview instructors at other institutions who use blogging in the classroom. If possible, gain access to their blogs to compare and contrast methods.
- 3) Focus on methods of scaffolding blogging into the classrooms. Investigate best practices and best ways to establish tone and purpose in academic blogging.
- 4) Continue maintenance of department blog. Record my observations of participation.

#### **April 2014**

- 1) Synthesize all research and all findings.
- 2) Work on presentation for faculty.
- 3) Begin writing detailed report.
- 4) Continue work/Tj EMC 4efe( of)3( p>>BDC -18.]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 2L Tj

Fellow, South Coast Writing Project. Attended intensive 2-week conference. Currently attend follow-up meetings when available.

Participant, Great Teachers Seminar. Attended 1-week seminar. Participated in and presented workshops for other instructors.

Presented “Engaging Students in Learning” at Summer Institute at OC.

Article published in *POSTSCWRIP*, a publication of the South Coast Writing Project.

**b. Service**

1) Department/Discipline

Vice Chair, Letters. Conducted all part-time evaluations for the Letters Department for past 12 years.

Academic Senate representative, 2010 and currently.

Campus Use, Development, and Safety representative 2011.

2) College

Professional Development Committee representative and past chairperson of committee. Developed and implemented Flex Day activities. Organized campus activities such as “Sundaes on Tuesday.”

3) District

Attended various board meetings. Addressed board members on importance of maintaining communications division.

4) Community

Involved with Puente Project for 7 years; gave workshops and presentations in high schools throughout county.

Participated in numerous Youth Days held at Oxnard College.

**5. Length of Service & Past Sabbaticals Awarded**

- a.** Employed as a full-time faculty member in 1993 at Oxnard College.
- b.** Past sabbatical leave received: 1999.