Initiative for Educational Excellence

Texas A&M University

College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

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Initiative for Educational Excellence

Mission Statement:
Collaborate with faculty in the professional program to create a community of educational scholarship and learner-centered practice by developing an infrastructure that fosters a culture of transformational learning.
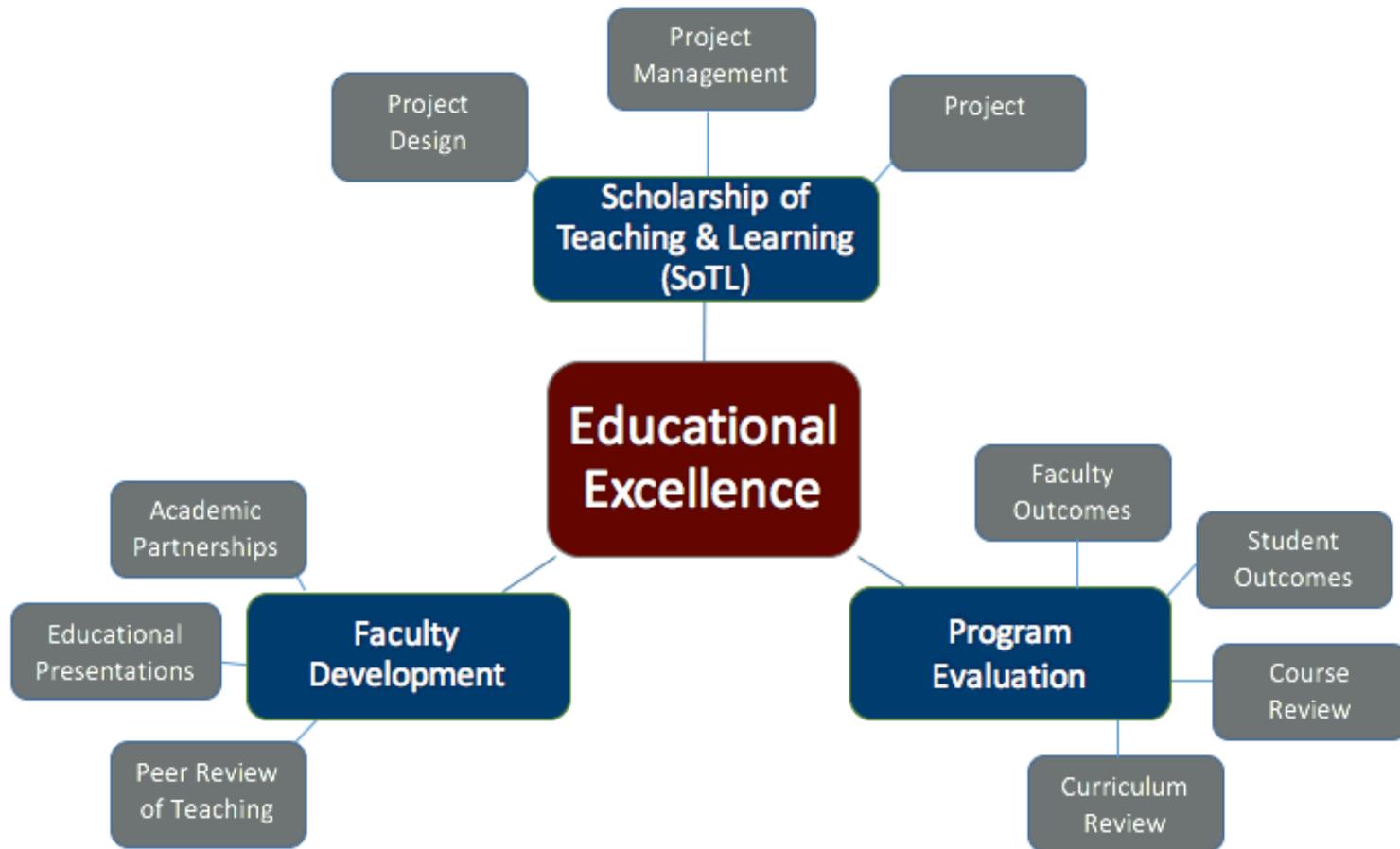
Program Evaluation

The Initiative of Educational Excellence will develop an infrastructure to evaluate the effectiveness of the DVM program. Program evaluation is necessary to adhere and maintain program outcomes and continue development of our students and faculty. This process reviews who is involved in the program, faculty and students, and the contents of the program, the curriculum framework and courses.

Focus Area

- **Curriculum Review**
    - Present findings to DVM Curriculum Committee (CC)
    - Support CC to create a plan of action based upon findings
        - Utilize Curriculum Map 2.0 (syllabus) to ensure sufficient coverage of NGOs and adherence to allocated student contact time
        - Monitor goals of the revised/redesigned curriculum (as stated in the Program Evaluation / Action Report)
        - Evaluate results of Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA) exam (pending CC decision)
        - Analyze data from student focus groups related to program experiences
            - Focus groups convene at the start of each semester.

- **Course Review**
    - Present findings to CC
    - Support CC to create a plan of action based upon findings
        - Evaluate syllabus for learning outcomes and NGO compliance
        - Verify linkage between NGOs and course outcomes with ExamSoft data points
        - Analyze data from student course evaluations related to course experiences
        - Encourage faculty self-reflection to plan course improvements/revisions

- **Faculty Outcomes**
  - Teaching: monitor growth in teaching (e.g. PRT recommendations)
  - Research: monitor growth in SoTL activities
  - Service: monitor faculty participation in educational service (e.g. serving as a peer-observer, presenting at CVM Showcase, championing efforts in innovative teaching with colleagues, encouraging co-authorships on grant submissions related to teaching excellence)
- **Student Outcomes**
  - Utilize ExamSoft data/student scores to confirm degree of proficiency according to the NGO rubrics
  - Monitor results of VEA exam
    - Formative assessment for faculty and students
      - Exam administered between 2VM/3VM
    - Readiness assessment for NAVLE / clinical medicine
  - Administer and analyze results from DVM Student NGO-Confidence Survey
    - Administered following each year of the program)

Role of Academic Liaisons/Academic Experts
- Present findings to DVM Curriculum Committee (CC)
- Support CC to create a plan of action based upon findings
- Submit annual report on faculty engagement in the initiative to department heads

Faculty Development

The Initiative of Educational Excellence will create a culture of transformational learning through peer review of teaching, academic partnerships and educational presentations. Meeting the needs of both individuals and the program provides the foundation for successful faculty development activities.
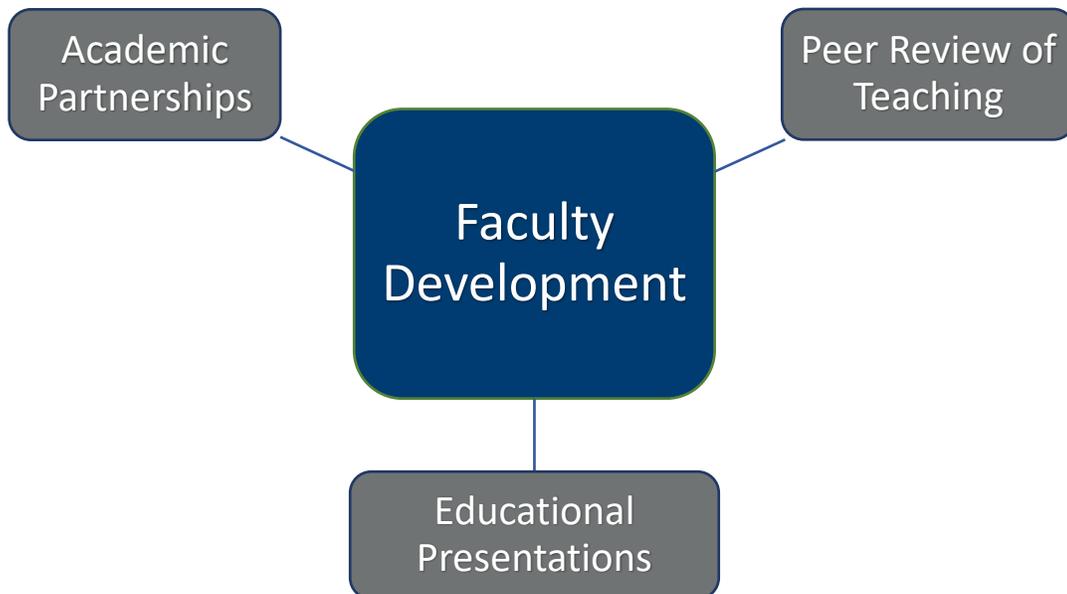
Focus Areas

- **Peer Review of Teaching (PRT)**
    - Oversee PRT pool of interdepartmental peer-observers
        - Define and participate in the process of PRT
        - Provide training for PRT observers
    - Develop and refresh tools for PRT process
    - Generate annual schedule of faculty in the professional program for PRT
- **Academic Partnerships**
    - Serve as pedagogical liaison to faculty
        - 1-on-1 consultations
        - Pedagogical liaison aligned to each course for educational support
- **Educational Presentations**
    - Host faculty-to-faculty CVM College Hour presentations
        - Facilitate faculty demonstrations of personal teaching experiences
    - Support faculty in preparation / proposals for CVM Teaching Showcase

Role of Academic Liaisons/Academic Experts

Peer Review of Teaching
The pedagogical liaison/academic expert may:
- Coordinate the PRT pool of peer-observers
- Define PRT the process
- Provide training for PRT observers
- Develop and refresh tools for PRT process
- Generate annual schedule of faculty in the professional program for PRT
- Serve as an observer

Academic Partnerships
This initiative will designate a pedagogical liaison/academic expert to DVM faculty and their course(s).

The pedagogical liaison/academic expert may informally:
- Assist in planning, delivering, and assessing classroom instruction
- Observe student behavior and student needs during class and encourage students to participate in class activities
- Provide feedback regarding classroom atmosphere.
- Assist with the facilitation of active learning strategies in the classroom
- Connect faculty with college resources, such as the CET and ExamSoft coordinator, to support them in planning and creating innovative instructional materials and assessments aligned to the DVM curriculum
- Connect faculty with university resources, such as the CTE and disability services, to support them in planning and creating innovative instructional materials and assessments aligned to the DVM curriculum
- Share and organize educational resources under Faculty Resources in Moodle
- Provide consultations via phone or email to support faculty (without expectations for teaching disciplinary content, creating instructional materials or assessments, or grading of assignments or assessments)

Educational Presentations
This initiative will foster college conversations on transformative learning that are informed by national and international higher education developments, as well as local issues and priorities for our college.

The pedagogical liaison/academic expert may:
- Host faculty-to-faculty College Hour presentations.
- Co-present with faculty in College Hour presentations.

- Assist faculty in submitting proposals for and presenting at the CVM Showcase.
- Assist faculty with presentation development for SoTL projects.

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL)

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning is a combination of teaching, learning, and research in higher education that aims to bring a scholarly perspective to what happens in the classroom. SoTL involves asking and answering meaningful questions about student learning and about the teaching activities designed to facilitate student learning.

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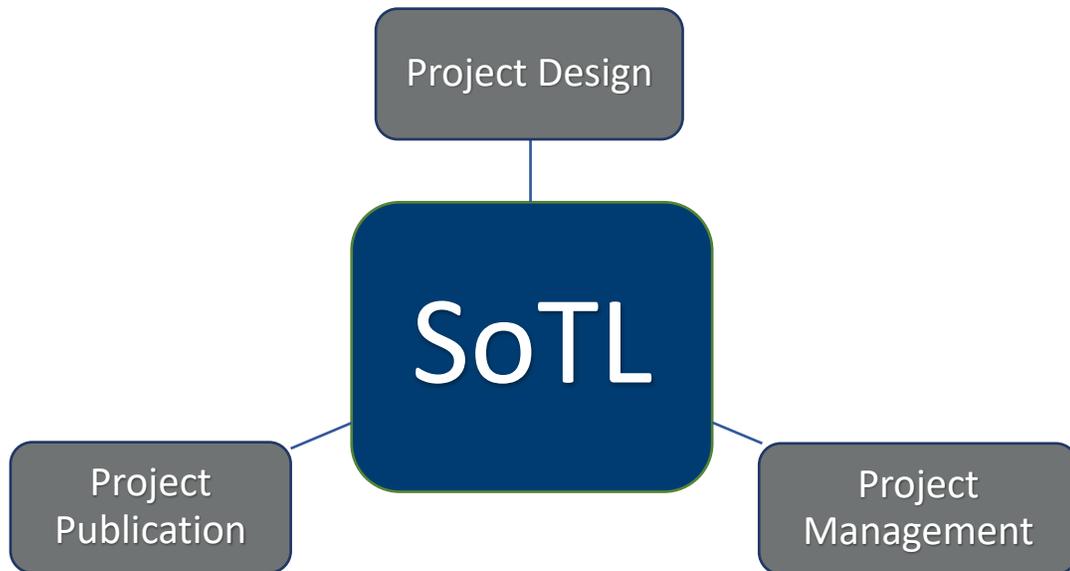
Focus Areas

- **Project Design**
    - 1-on-1 consultations with academic experts
        - Connect faculty with similar SoTL interests
        - Assist creation of research questions and study design
- **Project Management**
    - Facilitate the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process
    - Assist in collection and analysis of data
- **Project Publication**
    - Recommend publication outlets for manuscripts and presentations
    - Assist faculty in manuscript writing
        - Provide necessary level of support from feedback to co-authorship

Role of Academic Liaisons/Academic Experts

Project Design
This initiative will offer faculty one-on-one consultations with a pedagogical liaison/academic expert on project design.

The pedagogical liaison/academic expert may:
- Assist in creating research questions, study design, and instruments
- Connect faculty with other faculty with similar SoTL interests
- Locate and share educational grant opportunities
- Share project design resources under Faculty Resources in Moodle

Project Management
This initiative will offer faculty one-on-one consultations with a pedagogical liaison/academic expert on project management.

The pedagogical liaison/academic expert may:
- Assist in obtaining and maintaining IRB approval
- Assist in collecting and analyzing data
- Assist in applying for funding through educational grants
- Serve as PI/Co-PI/Co-Investigator on educational grant projects
- Share project management resources under Faculty Resources in Moodle

Project Publication
This initiative will offer faculty one-on-one consultations with a pedagogical liaison/academic expert on project publication.

The pedagogical liaison/academic expert may:
- Recommend publication outlets for manuscripts and presentations
- Review, provide feedback, revise, and/or co-author manuscripts
- Share publication resources under Faculty Resources in Moodle