VPFA’s Occasional Newsletter
Halloween 2019
Super Spooky Edition
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Scary Good Continuing Faculty Development Workshops for 2019-20

While these workshops are designed for all faculty, we strongly encourage all new faculty to attend as a continuation of New Faculty Orientation. All sessions are held at 3:00 p.m. in the James E. Walker Library, Room 348 (LT&ITC).

- Faculty Success, September 12
- Student Success Initiatives, October 10
- International Affairs, November 19
- Research, February 13
- Advancement, March 13
- Tenure and Promotion, April 30 (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

Attendance has been underwhelming at the first two sessions. What we can do to encourage more of you to attend these workshops? Do you need reminders? Different topics? Better snacks?

GroupMe and Chegg and Quizlet, oh, my!

If you’ve never heard of GroupMe, Chegg, and Quizlet, you might want to learn more. A recent piece in the Chronicle of Higher Education, https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-Professor-Wants-to-Fail/247219?cid=db&source=ams&sourceId=64153, advises faculty “to tailor their assignments and exams differently each semester” and “to adapt their expectations of how students work and how the tools they have available to them will shape that work.” FYI.

Bewitching LMS Survey

The campus will soon be evaluating D2L, our Learning Management System (LMS), and faculty will be receiving a Qualtrix survey. Please – pretty please – complete it for us. We need to know how you use D2L and what your satisfaction level might be. I’ll be sending a separate reminder email when the survey goes out.
**OER Use and Survey: BOO!**

Are you familiar with Open Educational Resources (OER)? Easy-to-access, digital, peer-reviewed OER are available to replace expensive textbooks, allowing students to have access to their textbooks on Day 1 of the term.

An MTSU group of faculty and librarians is studying how we might increase the use of OER, which has been shown to increase student retention.

Be on the lookout for a survey requesting info on your use of and interest in OER.

**Digital Measures: Terrifying? Not!**

The Digital Measures rollout continues apace with continuing workshops and trainings. The Jones College of Business has adopted DM for all personnel assessment – renewal, review, and evaluation – this year. Thanks, Jones CoB, for jumping in with both feet. Remember that ongoing DM training is available for all faculty. For more info and other DM-related questions, please contact Joey Gray (joey.gray@mtsu.edu).

**Try this Trick: the FAQ Syllabus**

With Fall Break in our rear view, folks are already thinking about spring course. See this link to a cool idea for an FAQ syllabus: [https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Turn-Your-Syllabus-Into/247248](https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Turn-Your-Syllabus-Into/247248).

**Here’s a Treat: Talented Accommodations Speaker**

Salome Heyward. “Accommodations Q&A for Teaching Faculty.” Everything you’ve both wanted and needed to know re: accommodations for disabilities.

November 14. Two sessions 10-12 and 1-3. LT&ITC.

Here are the links to sign up:

- Session 1 (10a-12p): [https://www.mtsu.edu/ltanditc/workshops/register/919/accommodations-and-access-for-students-with-disabilities](https://www.mtsu.edu/ltanditc/workshops/register/919/accommodations-and-access-for-students-with-disabilities)
- Session 2 (1p-3p): [https://www.mtsu.edu/ltanditc/workshops/register/925/accommodations-and-access-for-students-with-disabilities](https://www.mtsu.edu/ltanditc/workshops/register/925/accommodations-and-access-for-students-with-disabilities)

Speaking of accommodations, please don’t forget we offer two grants @ $1,000 each for Curriculum Redesign for Accessibility. Please see [https://www.mtsu.edu/provost/awards/curriculum-redesign-acc.php](https://www.mtsu.edu/provost/awards/curriculum-redesign-acc.php).