

Chairs Update March 2018

Message from Chair Fellow

Hendiatris Citius, Altius, Fortius

In the past week, I have watched more hours of TV than I care to admit. Normally, I am not a TV person. I like a few movies; I have a weakness for popcorn. But TV? Not really my choice.

This week, however, is different. This week I have been glued to my television watching the amazing and inspiring Olympic athletes compete in the XXIII Winter Olympic games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. I adore everything about the Olympic games. I marvel over the athleticism and grace demonstrated by figure skaters. I learn the rules of curling so I can yell at misdirected “hammers” caused by “swinging ice.” I hold my breath as the skiers fly down the slopes and through the air. And the mental courage of the two-person luge teams? They might as well be launching from cannons. I eagerly watch any one of the 102 events across 15 sports, including the opening and closing ceremonies.

In fact, I think the opening ceremonies is my favorite moment in the two-week production. I especially love when the athletes march into the Olympic stadium. I always smile at the over-enthusiastic athlete, wildly taking pictures of the audience, walking and waving so much that you know (from your living room) none of the photos they take will work out. I am also moved by the athletes who march in silent tears; I'd like to know their stories as I send them wishes for a gold medal future. The opening ceremonies are a pageant of colorful clothes, cultural history, and technology.

The celebration of the Olympic games leads me to wonder what an academic, higher education, Oakland University version of the games would look like. Perhaps some crazy combinations of clean-energy, quiz bowl lab experiments with artistic performance closure? I smile thinking about the array of uniforms each department/college would wear as we marched around the clock tower circling for the lighting of the “Academic flame” atop the new Oakland Center building. What brilliant, wonderful pageantry could we display, I wonder?

But, just as the Olympic games' splendor also draws the world's eyes to controversy, political baggage and social disparities, I recognize our Oakland University academic games would identify problematic issues within the academy. One topic that might surface is the need to build diversity on campus.

Recently, our university pledged itself to creating a more diverse and inclusive environment. This pledge moves beyond differences we see and explores the ways we can be a welcoming environment for students, faculty and staff. Certainly an issue during the hiring process, diversity and inclusion also impacts daily departmental life. On Monday, March 5th from 12:00-1:30pm, Dr. Karen Markel, chairperson of the Department of Management and Marketing, will lead our Chair Forum discussion on encouraging a “Diversity Mindset” in our departments. Our

lunchtime conversation will challenge us to think about diversity in different forms, pursue multiple voices, and understand different viewpoints. The link to register is included below. I hope that you will join us – I look forward to hearing about your favorite Olympic moments (or just ideas for our own diversity-inspired academic games). I encourage you to register.

Until then, Hendiatrix Citius, Altius, Fortius!

Jenn Heisler

Chair Events and Resources

Chair Forums will continue in the winter semester. Please join us for lunch and discussion from 12:00-1:30pm. [Click here to register](#). Upcoming topics will include:

- **Monday, March 5th: Diversity Mindset**
Diversity is more than just a recruitment strategy; a diversity mindset offers the ability to think and see the value of diversity in different situations, understand different points of view, and actively pursue stories from a variety of voices. This forum engages the role of chairs in supporting diversity and the characteristic opportunities and challenges. Join us to discuss what a diversity mindset means for our departments, college, and classrooms.
- **Friday, April 6th: Looking Back; Looking Ahead**
This session will encourage new and seasoned chairs to reflect on their past year and plan for their future. New chairs will reflect on their first year(s) and identify areas for future planning. Seasoned chairs will discuss their reentry into faculty life.

Other Events and Resources for Chairs and Faculty

1. **Register for CETL winter workshops and events:** <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/>
2. **Learning Accessibility and ADA Compliance Training for Faculty**
Oakland University has committed to making its electronic material accessible to users with disabilities, including the instructional content we offer our students. CETL and e-LIS are facilitating training sessions for faculty on how to make their course materials (instructional videos, web resources, slide presentations, and documents) accessible. In order to reach as many faculty as possible, the same session is being offered three times this semester. We particularly encourage chairs to attend, as they can consider measures to help their faculty make their material accessible to all students. Like CETL workshops, all sessions are 12:00-1:30 p.m. and include lunch.
 - [Register for Session on Thursday, March 15](#)
 - [Register for Session on Wednesday, March 21](#)
 - [Register for Session on Tuesday, March 27](#)
3. **Instructional Fair Wednesday, April 4, 2018.** OU faculty and staff create a display (print poster, digital presentation or interactive demonstration) along with a one-page handout of an effective strategy in order to discuss and share ideas with colleagues across the disciplines.
For the event, attendees can drop in between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. in this open house format. Located in Banquet Room B, Oakland Center. Appetizers provided.

[Visit the Instructional Fair website.](#)

4. **CETL Excellence in Teaching and Learning Grant.** Focus on Student Success and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). Proposals due Tuesday, March 13, 2018. This grant funds the development, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based teaching practices that will improve teaching and student learning. The funding supports the faculty's time to research, develop and assess their project that goes above and beyond the expected course preparation time. Full-time faculty, and part-time faculty who have taught at least 24 credits at OU may apply. Teams of two may apply with a strong rationale (e.g. team-teaching). View the full grant details, cover letter form for individuals and teams, and full evaluation rubric. Those who have received CETL Teaching Grant less than three years ago, OUWB faculty, and graduate students are not eligible. [View a list of past recipients.](#)
[View Grant details.](#)

Chair Reminders

1. **New Faculty Hires.** When you finalize a new faculty hire, please remember to send the applicant's contact information to CETL (Candace Campbell- ccampbell2@oakland.edu) so that we can reach out to them with a welcome packet, link them to New Faculty Resources, and invite them to New Faculty Orientations. During interviews with faculty applicants, feel free to bring them over to CETL when giving them a tour and share our website with them (oakland.edu/cetl)
2. **Chair Fellow.** We will be appointing a Chair Fellow for the 2018-2019 academic year. The role involves organizing and running the Chair Retreat, next year's Forums and mentoring Chairs. If you are stepping down as Chair, and are interested in serving as a Chair Fellow next year, or know of an individual who has served as a Chair in the past 5 years and may be interested, please contact Judy at CETL (ableser@oakland.edu) to discuss this opportunity.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Heisler – Chair Fellow heisler@oakland.edu

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