

**MSS Committee on Teaching and Learning  
2017 Meeting Report  
Submitted by outgoing Chair, Caleb M. Bush**

Members present: Caleb Bush (Chair, 2016-2017), University of Wisconsin-Rock County (2017); Bridget Diamond-Welch, (Chair-elect, 2017-2018), University of South Dakota (2018); Emily Bowman, Coe College (2018); Derrick Brooms, University of Louisville (2018); Doug Dowell, Heartland Community College (2019); Catherine Fobes, Alma College (2017); Michael Gillespie, Eastern Illinois University (2020); Steve Lippmann, Miami University OH (2019); Aurelien Mauxion, Columbia College (2018); Brian McQueen, Wartburg College (2017); Kate Novak, Butler University (2018); Kayla Pritchard, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (2019); Gwendolyn Purifoye, Kent State University at Stark (2020); Carlene Sipma-Dysico, Lewis University (2020); Bradley Zopf, University of Illinois-Chicago (2020)

Members absent: Matthew Green, College of DuPage (2017)

The MSS Committee on Teaching and Learning (CoTL) addressed the following areas related to the work of the committee: (1) planning for 2018 annual meeting with MSS President-Elect, Marlynn May; (2) our Certificate of Teaching and Learning certificate program and related new processes; (3) CoTL sponsored sessions for the 2017 and 2018 conferences; (4) committee work relative to the MSS Strategic plan; (5) nominations for new committee members; and (6) nominations for committee Chair through 2020.

1. **Marlynn May, MSS President-Elect**, met with the committee to discuss ideas for the 2018 annual meeting as well as larger goals for MSS. Committee members engaged in considerable discussion around session ideas related to the upcoming theme of global public health, including a focus on immigration.
2. **2017 Certificate of Teaching and Learning**: After a one-year hiatus, the committee was eager to offer again our successful certificate program at the 2017 meeting. Committee Chair, Caleb Bush, worked with MSS Executive Director, Jennifer Talarico, and others to reinstate a robust certificate in 2017. Positively, the certificate program enjoyed considerable MSS support, including multiple mentions in email blasts to members, prominent display in the Meeting Program, and placement at/near the check-in desk. In discussions with President-Elect May, committee members suggested new ideas for promoting the certificate, including getting the certificate linked to the meeting app, having teaching/learning sessions more evenly distributed in the program, and pre-conference emails to presiders for sessions linked to the certificate. We widely agreed there was even more work to be done to invigorate an already-successful certificate.
3. **2017 Conference**: The CoTL sponsored/co-sponsored 17 sessions for this year's meeting. This represents a significant uptick from the small number (5) of sessions that appeared as co-sponsored in the 2016 annual meeting program. Committee Chair, Caleb Bush, worked closely with the Program Chair and other members of the 2017 Program Committee to assure good representation of the committee's hard work toward session planning/organizing. As well, when asked by the Program Chair, CoTL members ably stepped up to preside over five sessions that lacked presiders in planning stages of the 2017 meeting. As Chair, I want to especially recognize the committee members who volunteered to preside over these additional sessions.

4. **2018 Conference:** Committee members identified thirteen (13) sessions to offer at next year's annual meeting, and most already have committee members willing to serve as organizers/presiders. Again, we anticipate having strong committee representation in the planning and final program for the 2018 meeting.
5. **CoTL work relative to 2017-2020 MSS Strategic Plan:** With a new Strategic Plan, the committee had a chance to review anew the many ways we help MSS meet its strategic goals. In our discussions, we identified, first and foremost, our committee's critical role in addressing Strategic Direction 5, specifically Objective 1: Establish and implement certificate plan. CoTL was especially happy this year to offer the first certificate under the new process working closely with the Executive Director's office. It is our hope that our long-established certificate, revived this year, can serve as a model for any future developments in this area of planning.

Additionally, in discussion here as well as with President-Elect May, committee members agreed that CoTL plays an important role in helping MSS address Strategic Direction 1, Objective 2: Recruitment of underrepresented groups to membership and leadership. The nature of our committee work tends to attract interest from faculty at all types of institutions of higher education and from highly diverse populations. In reviewing our many co-sponsored sessions, the committee also routinely addresses topical issues related to diversity in the classroom and on campus at-large.

6. **CoTL Members:** We discussed three possible nominees to our committee for next year: Lindsay Martin, UT–Martin; Christopher Kelley, US Air Force Academy; and Divinity O'Connor De Los Rios, Iowa Central CC. After the committee meeting, CoTL Chair, Caleb Bush, talked to another MSS member, Autumn Behringer, Madison College, and confirmed her interest and willingness to serve starting in 2018. These four individuals promise to continue the committee's good work.
7. **CoTL Leadership:** Bridget Diamond-Welch (2017-2018) and Steve Lippman (2018-2019) are in line to serve as Committee Chairs. We also nominated Brian McQueen to be the 2019-2020 Committee Chair. We are fortunate to have leadership planned multiple years in advance to ensure continuity in the committee's work.
8. **2017 Certificate Report:** After all submissions were received and reviewed, the Chair forwarded seven (7) names to the Executive Director for the MSS Certificate of Teaching and Learning. This number, for the Teaching and Learning Certificate alone, comes in slightly lower but in close alignment with previous years' certificate numbers.

#### **Items on hold in 2017**

1. After deciding to move away from the rarely-awarded departmental teaching award, CoTL has identified at past meetings two possible teaching awards to grant in future years. These awards include an "Early Career Award" for junior faculty specifically and a "Distinguished Contributions to Teaching & Learning Award" for established faculty. With a new Strategic Plan starting in 2017, we tabled work toward these new teaching awards in 2016. However, we would anticipate starting work toward these awards in 2017-2018 and would like guidance from MSS leadership on direction and goals.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caleb M. Bush  
CoTL Chair, 2016-2017