

TESOL 2008

Extending Classroom Communication Support to International Faculty

Defining the issue

- Low participation from nonnative speaking faculty (UMN +CMU); embarrassment/ loss of face/ stigma attached to seeking language support
- Fluency screening not mandated or expected for faculty; may arrive on campus without sufficient fluency
- Faculty may be resistant to help or lack motivation if sent under duress
- Resistance to attending mixed faculty/ graduate student classes
- Undergraduate complaints often end up in ITA programs or teaching centers
- Difficult to talk about this politically sensitive issue (“Elephant in the room” syndrome)
- Outside pressure, e.g., Minnesota bill in state legislature
- Additional ideas from the discussion:

What we have tried

- Series of 24 workshops (Cornell)
- On-line counseling circles for international faculty (Cornell)
- Cyber Tower site (online connection to faculty via study rooms and forums) (Cornell)
- Extensive Blackboard site with hundreds of language development plans (Cornell)
- Enrollment in ITA course (Cornell)
- Seminar for international faculty during New Faculty Orientation (CMU)
- Teaching in America (DVD), from Harvard’s Derek Bok Center (CMU)
- Individual consultations (CMU + UMN + Cornell)
- Quick Tips handout (CMU)
- On-line info on cultural variations in the classroom (CMU)
- Year-long faculty learning community (UMN)
- Year-long small group section of Early Career faculty learning community (UMN)
- Year-long faculty seminar (UMN)
- Orientation ½ day retreat for new international faculty (UMN)
- Lunch discussion topics for international faculty (UMN)
- Student Bookmarks: *Maximize Your Learning from International Instructors* (UMN)
- Orientation session for new students on learning from international instructors (UMN)

- Canadian web site for international faculty, <http://www.successinacademia.ca/>
- Additional ideas from the discussion:

What is the next step?

- Results from faculty questionnaire (UMN)
- ITA listserv survey results
- Additional ideas from the discussion:

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