

Reflection: Writing Academic Philosophy Statements

Introduction: In the second workshop of three workshops on Academic Portfolio Development, we will be discussing philosophy statements used as a way to integrate your thinking, development, and creative endeavors in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. We plan to involve faculty in some interactive learning as we walk through steps in developing an integrated philosophy statement. The material below may help you get started. Additionally, we have added a url address which contains a self-inventory about your beliefs in teaching and learning. Taking this inventory could also provide insights that may help you begin your teaching philosophy statement narrative:

http://www.teachingperspectives.com/html/tpi_frames.htm

Developing a Philosophy of Teaching, Scholarship and Service¹

The foundation of your philosophy of a clearly articulated philosophy of teaching, scholarship/creative activities, and service should be an answer to the question: “Why do I teach, engage in scholarship or other creative activity, and engage in service?” To develop a philosophy, Goodyear and Allchin (1998) suggest addressing the following questions:

- What motivates me to learn about my area(s) of expertise?
- What do I expect to be the outcomes of my teaching, scholarship, and service?
- What are the student--teacher and collegial relationships I strive to achieve?
- How do I know when I have been successful?
- What habits, attitudes, or methods mark my most successful teaching, scholarly, and service achievements?
- What values do I impart to my students, colleagues, and those I serve?
- What code of ethics guides me?
- What theme(s) pervade(s) my teaching, scholarship, and service?

Goodyear and Allchin suggest that the final version of your philosophy of teaching, scholarship, and service may include the following dimensions (not necessarily in this order):

- 1) The conceptual dimension(s) that integrate your teaching, scholarship, and service.
- 2) How you create and maintain relationships with students and faculty colleagues that enhance successful teaching, scholarship, and service.
- 3) How you create an effective physical, social, and psychological learning environment.
- 4) How you communicate your values and expectations to your students and colleagues.
- 5) A description of selected activities, strategies, and techniques and how they reflect your philosophy of teaching, scholarship, and service.
- 6) How successful you are in achieving your intended outcomes in teaching, scholarship, and service.

¹ Goodyear, G. E., & Allchin, D. (1998). Statements of Teaching Philosophy. In M. Kaplan (Ed.), To improve the academy, Vol. 17 (pp. 103-122). Stillwater, OK: New Forums Press. FROM: Developing a Philosophy of Teaching, Scholarship, and Professional Service
<http://www.kennesaw.edu/academicaffairs/tenure/philosop.htm>