

A Can-Do Attitude: Encouraging Meaningful Faculty Professional Development

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UAGC Faculty

- About 2,000 Active Adjunct Faculty
- Teaching 5, 6, or 9-Week Courses
- 50 Start Dates per Year
- Active Practitioners in their Fields
- Must Complete One PD Activity per Course Contract



Bridging the Gap

Contractual Professional Development

- Superficial
- Disconnected
- Fragmented
- Non-Cumulative
 - Ball and Cohen, 1999
- Detached from Faculty Motivations
 - Gusky, 1986

Classroom --> Real-World

- Higher-Order Competencies
- Durable
- Adaptable
- Marketable
- Career-Building





How do ACTFL and IDEA Inform Faculty PD?



Classroom vs. Study Abroad

- Vocabulary Drills
- Grammar Exercises
- Adapted Reading and Listening
- Unmediated
- Fast-Talking
- Real-Life Needs
- Environmental Stressors

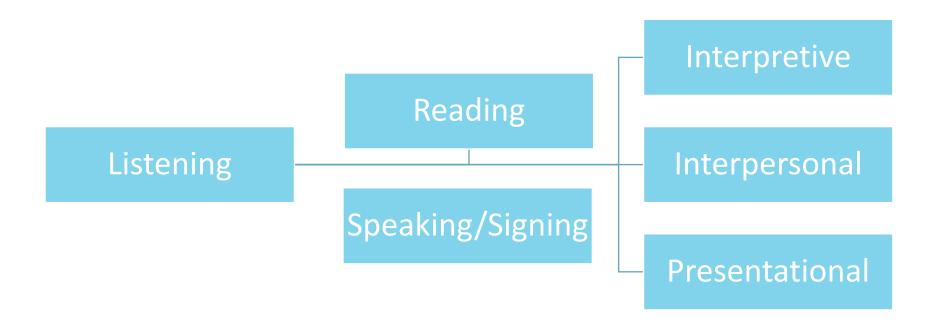
PD Activity vs. Instruction

- Policy Acknowledgements
- Explanation of Requirement
- Quick Start for Classroom Tools
- Nuanced Student Needs
- Technology Issues
- Classroom Conflict or Complication



Can-Do Statements | Skills and Modalities

https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements



Can-Do Statements

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What They Are

- Descriptions of What Learners can do Consistently Over Time
- Goal-Setting Guides
- Starting Points for Learner Self-Assessment

What They Are Not

- Prescriptions for One-Time Tasks
- Strict Parameters for Learning/Teaching Topics
- Tools for Assigning Grades/Scores



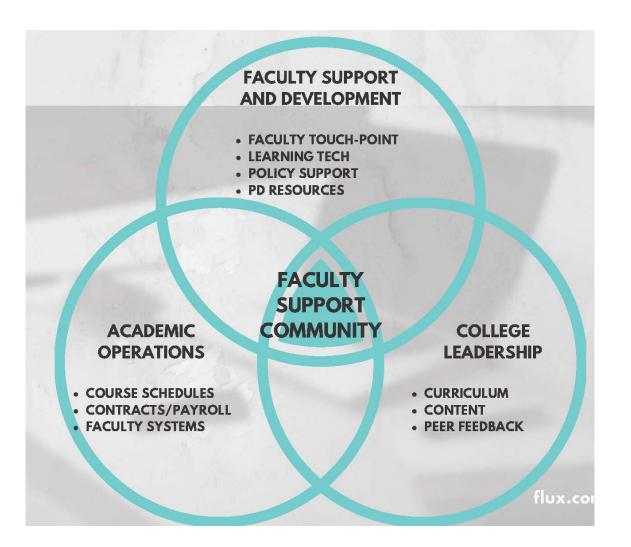
Can-Do statements are especially useful in distance learning environments where learners often are self-paced

[Can-do statements] increased student motivation, built self-confidence...and encouraged learner autonomy.

Faez, Mihanovich, et al, 2011



Can-Do Statements | A Faculty Model



Infrastructure

- Faculty Support and Development Course Feedback Occurs Regularly.
- Faculty Portal Offers Transparency and Tracking of Outcomes.
- Faculty End of Course Survey Allows Faculty to:
 - Reflect on Instruction and Feedback.
 - Connect PD Work to their Reflections.

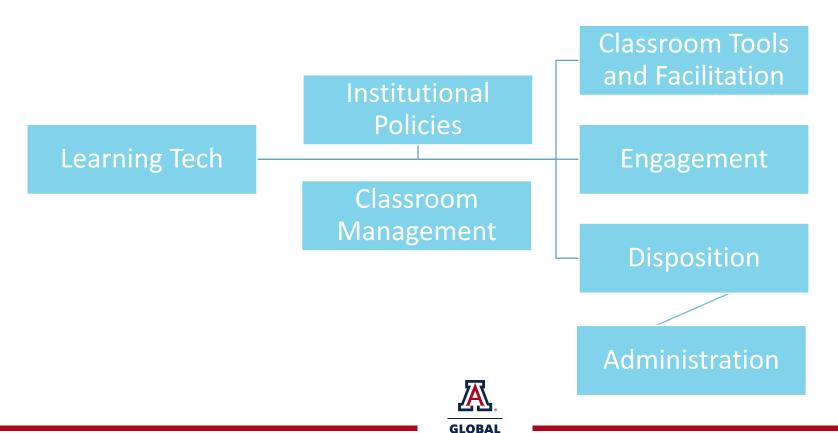


Defining Instructional Competencies

- Teaching activities are "context-related, uncertain, and continually improvable" (Cheong, 2017)
- Development of teaching process requires multidimensional input, including feedback from professional faculty development staff (Ghedin and Aquario, 2008).
- "Peripheral competencies" advising, administration, technology "could have a bigger influence on the process of enhancing [online] learning" than content expertise (Gonzalez-Sanmamed, et al, 2014).
- Instructional development requires a combination of the personal and professional dimensions of teaching (Whatley, et al, 1980).
- Competencies are useful for faculty development because they are "less imposing" than requirements (Cheong, 2017).



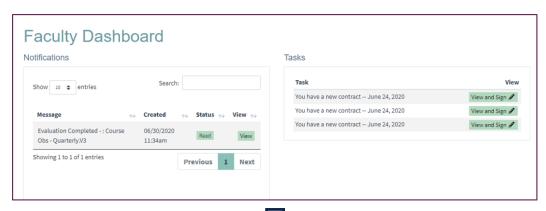
Defining Instructional Competencies



Faculty Portal (APL nextED)

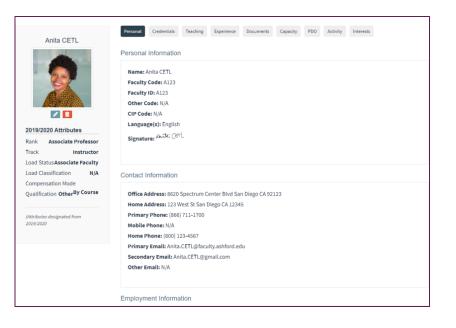
What Have We Completed

- Faculty Profile Creation and Updates
- Faculty Activity Tracking and Reporting
- Faculty Contracts
- Faculty Course Evaluations
- Faculty Course Approvals





Faculty Portal (APL nextED)



Centralize Disparate Info into Single Faculty Management System

Increase Transparency for Faculty to Administrative Info

- Performance Evaluations
- Course Scheduling
- Compensation
- Contracts

Engage Faculty in Every Aspect of their Lifecycle

Professional Development Resources



Faculty Portal (APL nextED)

What is Coming

- Integration with our SIS
- Faculty Course Scheduling
- Faculty Compensation and Payroll
- Professional Development
- Robust Reporting and Data
- Faculty End of Course Survey





Faculty End of Course Survey

• Purpose: To Track Completion of Contractual PD Requirement More Meaningfully

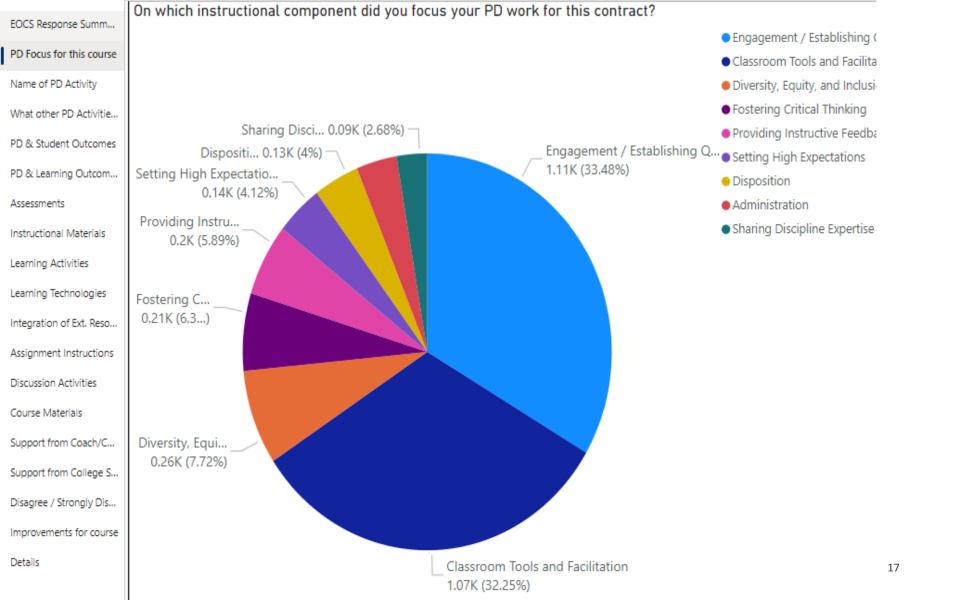
Content (Two Parts)

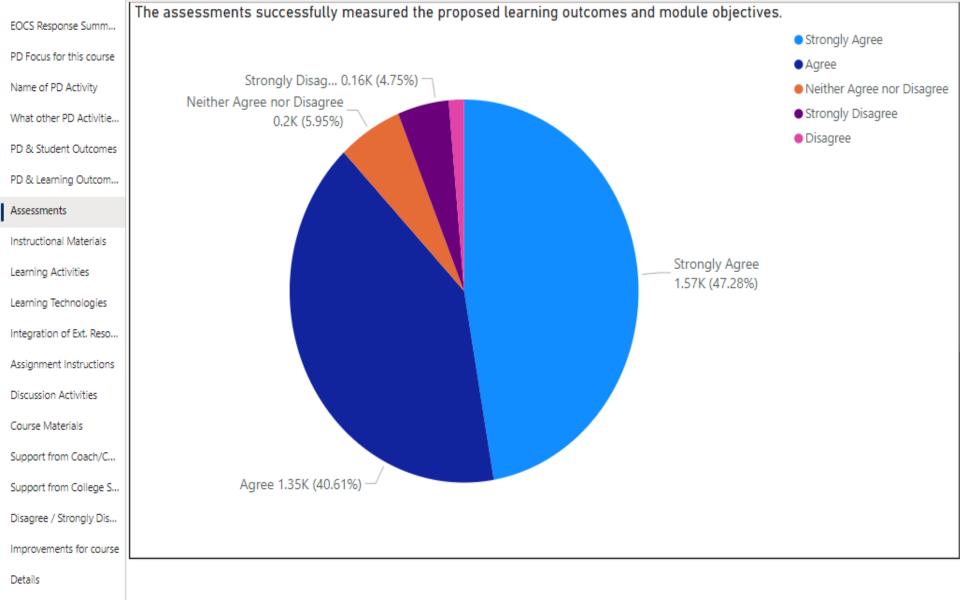
- •Self-Reflection Prompts Faculty to Connect PD to Peer Feedback and Personal Goals
- •Curriculum Feedback Offers Faculty Opportunity to Comment on the Instructional Experience. For Example:
 - Instructional Materials
 - Learning Activities
 - Assignment Instructions
 - Discussion Activities
 - Reading Materials, Technologies
 - Support Mechanisms (FSD Team and Faculty Supervisors)

Distribution

- Sent via Qualtrics Starting on 4/6/2021
- Almost 3,300 Responses to Date







Goals

Online adjunct faculty make the most of required professional development hours by:

- Reflecting on challenges and successes of past teaching experiences.
- Considering instructional goals and barriers to achieving them.
- Engaging with their Faculty Support Community on these topics.
- Selecting learning opportunities that will expand what they can do in and out of the classroom:

Consistently, Over Time, and in Varying Situations







Contact Us!

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