

Research Matters Research Matters

Your Research Newsletter

A publication of the UW Colleges Office of Academic Affairs

Volume 1, Issue 1, April 24, 2006

Teaching Excellence: Teaching is Not a Profession; it's a Passion!

During a speech delivered in April 2004, then University of Wisconsin System President Katherine Lyall stated that "the best teaching in the UW System occurs at the University of Wisconsin Colleges." The goals of the UW Colleges confirm our institution's commitment to teaching excellence, including the development, use, and assessment of effective teaching methods. (UW Colleges Catalog, pg. 5)

In the spring 2005 HERI survey completed by UW Colleges faculty, this strong commitment to teaching excellence is very evident. Survey responses from other public and private two-year colleges are noted in parentheses to the right below where appropriate.

During the past two years, UW Colleges faculty responded in the affirmative that they:

- Taught an interdisciplinary course: 62.7% (26.6%)
- Taught an ethnic studies course: 41.4% (9.9%)
- Team-taught a course: 55% (31.6%)
- Worked with undergraduates on a research project: 40.1% (28.8%)
- Developed a new course: 68.2% (56.7%)
- Taught a first-year seminar course: 32.4% (17.9%)

Personal goals noted as "very important" or "essential" by UW Colleges faculty are:

- Being a good teacher 98.8%
- Being a good colleague 91.0%
- Serving as a role model to students 82.5%

When ranking priorities and use of time related to teaching and learning, on average each week UW Colleges faculty spend:

- Actual scheduled teaching (not credit hours) 9 – 16 hrs. /wk.
- Preparing for teaching (includes grading papers) 9 – 20 hrs. /wk.
- Advising and counseling students, committee work, research/scholarly writing, and community/public service 1 – 4 hrs. each per week

2004-2005 Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) Full-time Undergraduate Faculty Survey UWC Respondents

167 faculty (106 men; 61 women)
58% overall response rate*

Age: (as of 12/31/04)

Below 40	22.4%
40 – 54	42.4%
55 and older	35.1%

Rank:

Professor:	27.1%
	(M 27.4%; W 26.7%)
Assoc. Professor:	34.3%
	(M 25.5%; W 50.0%)
Asst. Professor:	38.6%
	(M 47.2%; W 23.3%)

Highest Degree Earned:

Ph.D.	72.1%
Master's	23.6%

Tenure Status:

Tenured:	62.7%
Tenure Track	37.3%

Ethnicity:

White/Caucasian	92%
Asian American/Asian	6%
African American/Black	3%
Other Latino	2%
American Indian	1%

**It is statistically significant and gender representative. Nationally, the survey was completed by 2,843 two-year college faculty.*