

To: Beth Sandell

From: Michael A. Miller, Dean
College of Education

Date: 12-28-05

Re: Response to Professional Development Plan



Beth, you have provided a very thorough Professional Development Plan that is appropriate in all areas. Your commitment to the development of strong courses is clearly strong. Student and colleague reports that I hear are very complimentary. I hear much about your concern for quality and both admire and support it. You may wish, in future semesters, to use course evaluations as a basis for reflection. Reflecting about student responses is a valuable process, indeed, often more important than the actual scores.

It appears that your plans in Criterion II are to lay the groundwork for a research agenda. Your plans to complete a literature search and a survey of funding sources and publications are natural first steps. I would encourage you to also view two other activities as foundational to advancing your voice within the profession. First, attend conferences where individuals whose research you admire are presenting. Second, network with these individuals in order to find the ways that you connect with the research and define the priorities you will have for being a part of the dialogue.

I am very pleased that you and others have decided to participate in the CETL Certificate Program and other campus professional development conferences/activities. Regional and national conferences and memberships are also important means to growth.

It is clear that you care a great deal about the students and their ability to perform. Your involvement at seminars, the EEC Club, and in formal meetings with students is very admirable. I am certain that students feel you are a very strong model and are an advocate for them in all of this work.

Beth, I am truly pleased that you have taken on the leadership of the International Committee; you clearly offer a great deal of organizational abilities, as well as personal experience and connections that will help this committee to do its work well. In addition, you have planned work in department committees and I am hopeful to find additional ways that you will connect with College initiatives.

In sum, your plans as well as your activities to date are very strong. Please schedule an appointment when it is convenient next semester so that we can talk about this as well as your thoughts about the future.

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