**Professional Development Standing Committee AY 2015 - 2016**

*The Professional Development Committee provides leadership and input on professional development activities for counselors such as the Counselors Academy. The committee assists in creating professional development opportunities to enable counselors to enhance their counseling knowledge and skills as referenced within the KCC Counseling Faculty Standards of Practice.*

**Report submitted by Chair:** Mary Ann Vasaturo

**Members:** Flo Abara, Dusty Bailey, Steve Harris, Melvin Jadulang, Wes Maekawa, and Lisa Yrizarry, Drake Zintgraff

**Highlights**

**September, October 2015** – Committee discusses ramifications of leading the Counselor’s Academy and agrees to the proposal to assist and shadow current Counselor Academy Trainers for the AY 2015 – 2016 academy, and take overall responsibility for the future academies. Committee considers various venues such as the Counselor’s Academy and other scheduled sessions for counselors to conduct trainings or workshops, thus giving counselors opportunities to share papers and/or presentations made at professional organizations with KCC counselors. The committee agreed to use the 2015 PD Survey to guide the selection of topics.

The Committee considers formal and informal approaches to developing a Mentoring Program to help new hires become connect with the KCC community and become more acquainted with campus programs and activities.

**November 2015 –** Committee meets with Past PD Committee Chairs and Counselor Academy trainers to further plan and prepare for the Counselor Academy. Committee agrees to make topics relevant to all counselors, not just new hires. Committee reviews 2015 PD Survey Results to align topics with counselors’ interests and needs.

The Committee elaborated upon approaches to a Mentoring Program and recognized the importance of naturally forming relationships, common interests, and connecting new hires to mentors soon after they have been hired.

**December 2015** – Committee supports aligning training topics with updates from the Professional Standards Committee. Upon further review of the 2015 PD Survey, “Students of Concern,” is determined to be the highest rated item by survey respondents. Committee agrees to ask VCSA for additional clarification about what happens to Students of Concern after they are referred to the Behavior Intervention Team.

**February 2016** – Committee assists with the implementation of the 2016 Counselors Academy and hosts a potluck luncheon on February 26th for counselors to gather and welcome new counselors and staff.

**March 2016 –**

**April 2016 --** The Committee agreed to host Counselor Roundtable Discussions around NASPA webinars series, and Counseling-Focused THINK Sessions allowing counselors who have presented at national/regional conferences to share their presentations with KCC counselors.

A Mentoring Program will be created utilizing a hybrid of formal and informal mechanisms. Formal mentoring will focus on assisting new counselors with adjusting to the campus, whereupon a senior counselor will be assigned to work the new counselor. The informal counselor mentoring will enable counselors to self-identify areas of expertise and interest, whereupon the information will be shared with all counselors, thus enabling counselors to consult with each other on various topics of interest. The PD Committee will survey the CAAC Community to enable counselors to self-identify areas of expertise and interest.