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Faculty Development and Documenting Teaching Effectiveness in Online Classes

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Faculty Development and Documenting Teaching Effectiveness in Online Classes

The session will focus on two aspects of the department chair's responsibilities: Faculty development and documenting teaching effectiveness of faculty members.

The first part of the discussion will focus on providing support for faculty as they develop online courses, or improve existing ones. These support strategies include helping faculty members choose appropriate methods for designing online courses, selecting suitable tools for delivering the content, and designing effective strategies for keeping students and instructor engaged throughout the semester. Examples of strategies for faculty development include the strategic use of the campus' center for teaching and learning, strategies for standardizing course design across different sections of the same course, and encouraging faculty to develop expertise in online delivery of specialized content. We believe that teaching is a highly individual endeavor, and we will explain how to assist faculty in identifying their online teaching persona. Specific example for course development will include a variety of disciplines, some outside the focus of our two departments.

In order to evaluate the success of an online class, we will discuss how to conduct a peer (or supervisor) review in an asynchronous class. We will provide several examples of recurring comments in student course evaluations, and engage the audience in interpreting these comments. Time permitting, we will present a case study and ask participants to evaluate an online class based on the presented artefacts.

Finally, we will describe ways to document profession growth of faculty members who are preparing for promotion and/or tenure.