Engaged Learning Fellowship (ELF) – 2016-17 Course Design Call for Proposals

Bringing together the goals of engaged scholarship and student success, the Engaged Learning Fellowships offer faculty the opportunity to design and deliver courses using an engaged learning model. Funding and other support for ELF is being provided through the Office of the Provost and the Engaged Scholarship Committee at the University of Memphis. Work on course redesign should largely occur during summer of 2016, with productive use of the updated course in the fall of 2016 or spring of 2017.

Engaged Learning is a mode of experiential learning that fosters collaboration between faculty, students, and community partners for mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge that addresses a community-identified need and reciprocally supports the goals of community partners, student competencies, and faculty research.

For the 2016-17 ELF cycle we are seeking course design proposals from full-time faculty and staff that regularly teach undergraduate courses in any College (or School) at the University. Only courses that usually enroll at least 15 students will be considered. It is extremely important that selected Fellows be available for active participation throughout the fellowship period (May 2016-17).

Faculty who are awarded an ELF and complete their course redesign will receive a stipend of $2000. They will be eligible for an additional $500 stipend after the course has been taught at least one semester and the assessment report has been submitted. Stipends can be used for extra faculty compensation, honorariums for community partners’ involvement in the course; student travel for project; faculty conference travel; other class project related expenses.

ELF Proposals are due by 5 pm on Monday, February 29. Please email proposal and supporting documents to ELFinfo@memphis.edu with the subject line “ELF Proposal.”

Written proposals should demonstrate the following:

1) Pedagogical components - Successful proposals will reflect an emphasis on best practices in both course design and use of engaged learning and community engagement strategies. What conceptual/disciplinary competencies and skills will students’ gain through this engaged learning course? How?

2) Community partner commitment– Successful proposals will identify the community partner(s) that faculty will be working with and describe how the relationship will be mutually beneficial to all parties. How long has the faculty-community partnership existed? What need has been identified? How will the community partner be involved in the course? What tangible product(s) and/or benefit(s) will the community partner gain through this relationship?

3) Faculty research – Successful proposals will connect the redesigned course to faculty member’s research and describe how this engaged learning course will aid in the development or advancement of faculty members’ research interest(s) (e.g. engagement with community partner during redesigned course may generate new research questions, students in redesigned course may collect preliminary data).

4) Assessment of Outcomes – Assessment of redesign outcomes will be central to the fellowship. All proposals will need to include specific plans to measure and report changes in a) student mastery of conceptual competencies and skill building; b) community benefit; c) contribution to faculty member’s research interest(s).
5) Departmental commitment – Successful proposals will discuss the ways that engaged learning are or will be an ongoing part of the departmental curricula.

Additional Information required:
   a) Copy of original course syllabus (traditionally taught)
   b) Letter of Commitment from the community partner
   c) Letter of Commitment from department chair
   d) Budget and accompanying narrative – explaining how you intend to use the funds.

Rating Criteria – Greater consideration will be given to proposals that have one or more of the following: a) proposals come from faculty that have joined U of M in the last three years; b) 3000 and 4000 level courses; c) degree of innovation and/or rationale for redesign; d) likely replication in other courses; e) emphasis on best practices in course redesign to achieve student success.

Engaged Scholarship Committee Commitment – Selected ELF faculty will be engaged with members of the UM Engaged Scholarship Committee and have a formal mentor throughout the process to assist in selecting/developing appropriate tools for effective community engagement and experiential learning. Fellows must commit to participate in development sessions over the course of the fellowship and be willing to share their experience with others on campus.

Sharing and Dissemination of Process and Outcomes – Fellows are required to submit a written report detailing the outcomes of their redesigned course. Additionally, they will be asked to share the outcomes of their course redesign efforts with the Engaged Scholarship Committee and others.

If you have questions about the Engaged Learning Fellowship program, please contact Katherine Lambert-Pennington at almbrtpn@memphis.edu or Nicole Thompson at nlthmpsn@memphis.edu.

Timeline of Program

- Call for proposals issued – December 2015
- Proposal due – February 29, 2016
- Announcement of awards – mid-April 2016
- May 2016—ELF-Mentor Introduction and Planning Meeting
- Summer 2016—Engage in course redesign; work with Mentor
- August – Submit redesigned syllabus and plans.
- Fall 2016/Spring2017 – deliver redesigned course.
- Fall 2016/Spring 2017 – Meet with ES mentor (at least twice)
- January 30, 2016 or June 15, 2017 – ELF Report due
- May 2017 – ELFs Showcase their Class