Academic Resource Centers: an Umbrella or an ARC? Working Together Strategically Across Administrative Areas

R. Cecilia Knight (Library) & Barbara Johnson (CTS)

Abstract

The Academic Resource Centers (ARC) is an evolving network of professionals from various offices and departments across the Grinnell College campus. As an informal affinity group, the ARC does not exist on the college's organizational chart, nor does it have a budget. Members of ARC fluidly collaborate to support faculty and student fluency with cross-disciplinary skills that support teaching and learning in the liberal arts. Many of us teach both in classroom and informal settings, focusing on academic skill development rather than disciplinary content. Others are tenured or tenure-track faculty interested in bridging across disciplines to share expertise and pedagogical techniques that have broad applicability across the curriculum. This poster session will introduce ARC, its evolution as an informal collective of 12 diverse academic and support units, and the types of educational services offered to faculty and students. It will also explore how the diverse, collaborative network increases the efficiency of academic support by connecting people with the correct resources and expertise to meet their needs.

Who we are

Hanna Langley, Academic and International Advising
Karla Newton, Academic Advising
Joyce Sturns, Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising
Stacy Pels, Audio-Visual support assistant (ITS)
Randy Jones, Library Assistant Listening Room

Creative Media Initiative
Kathryns Kamp, Earl D. Strong Professor in Social Studies; Prof. of Anthropology
Laura Krider, Assistant Professor

Data Analysis and Social Inquiry Lab (dasil)
Julia Band, Data Services Librarian, Assistant Prof.

Lea Stagner, Associate Librarian

Curricular Technology Specialists (CTS)
Mike Conner, CTS

Curricular Technology Specialists (CTS)
Barbara Johnson, CTS (moved to Duluth)

Data Consulting Center
Math Laboratory
Reading Lab

Faulconer Gallery
Lesley Wright, Director of the Faulconer Gallery; Lecturer in Art

Information Technology Services (ITS)
Brent Jaeger, Assistant Director of ITS

Information Technology Services (ITS)
Katherine McCollum, Director of the Mathematics Lab & Lecturer

Innovative Learning Lab
Kathleen Sherratt, Associate Dean of the College (moving to University of Richmond)

AV Center
Ralph Helt, Audio-Visual Services Coordinator (ITS)

Library
Leslie Gregg-Jolly, Associate Dean of the College (maternal to Biology faculty)

Leadership
Richard Pelc, Samuel R. & Marie-Louise Rosenthal Librarian of the College

Student Academic Support Services
Lesley Wright, Director of the Mathematics Lab & Lecturer

Support and Advising
Joyce Sturns, Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising

Student Workshops, Spring 2011
Read Easier: developing critical reading strategies (2/7) (8 students)
Introduction to mind-mapping software (2/14) (6 students)
Writing in the library (2/28) (6 students)
What’s your evidence (3/14) (1 student)
The story behind the Numbers: writing about Data (4/11) (0 students)
Speech! Quick Tips for Oral Presentations (4/18) (8 students)
Revision Paloozas (4/25, 5/2, 5/9) (8, 13, 15 students)

Faculty Workshops, Spring 2011
Making meaningful media: short films, graphic novels and academic rigor (2/8) (8 faculty)
Using Clickers to enhance learning (2/9) (11 faculty)
Advising Workshop for Newer Faculty (2/23) (7 faculty)
Strategic and Efficient Advising Strategies: Developing an Advising Curriculum (3/2) (7 faculty)
Resources for Teaching with Images (3/16) (1 faculty)
Poster Pedagogy (4/13, 4/20) (5, 4 faculty)
Assessment at Grinnell (5/54/17 faculty)

What we’ve done

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Timeline 2009-2011

ARC Purpose

Grinnell faculty and students have high academic expectations. Meeting these expectations is rewarding. It is also difficult. These resource centers offer strategies and support for teaching and learning.

We help students learn to manage time. We help students to form an effective research question, use the library, or improve the first draft of a paper. We teach students strategies to read with greater efficiency and understanding, or master computer tools.

We help faculty design engaging assignments or improve feedback on student writing. We can create a Web page for a course to introduce resources in the field of study. Faculty can refer a student to us for analysis of reading capabilities, or enlist a tutor for a student who needs additional support.

We can help faculty teach students the ethical use of sources and citation practices in a given discipline.

And more.
We are here to help.

ARC’s various services and resources are listed on these pages.

http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/arc/arcpurpose

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