

Adjunct Faculty Contracts

Spring Break is a good time to check on the progress of *Year Contracts* and *Section Assignments*, which were implemented beginning in Fall 2010. Below are some thoughts:

The use of the word “contract” in *Year Contract* does not mean you are guaranteed a class nor does it specify which class you are teaching or how much you will be compensated. It ensures you are active in the system as a member of the adjunct faculty, and also that you receive access to all of the technology and other resources available at SVSU for adjunct faculty. It does not guarantee you a class, but it means you are being considered to teach a class during the academic year.

Once you are done teaching for Winter 2011 you will continue to have access to Vmail, Cardinal Direct, VSpace, and other technology, as well as have access to the Ryder Center and the Melvin J. Zahnow Library. This access will continue until about midway through July, when your college must determine whether to offer you a *Year Contract* for the 2011-2012 Academic Year. Even if you are not sure whether you will be teaching in the following academic year, it is a good idea to accept the *Year Contract* so you can maintain access to these resources and stay active in the system so that you do not have to re-submit all of your employment paperwork if you are asked to teach again.

Also we have noticed that some adjunct faculty members accept *Section Assignments* without first ensuring the pay amounts are correct. Please be aware that once you click “submit” to accept your *Section Assignment* that you agreed to teach the specified course for the specified amount (details about the Terms and Conditions are available in the Adjunct Faculty Handbook or at www.svsu.edu/adjunctfaculty). The dollar amount provided on Cardinal Direct is the total you will be paid per course. To calculate your pay amount per course, simply divide that number by the number of credit hours for the course. Also, pay attention to the information at the top of the page, which shows your highest degree completed and number of semesters’ experience: both of which affect your pay level.

If you notice that your pay amount, degree information, or experience is not correct, **do not** accept your *Section Assignment*. You are always welcome to call the Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs at (989) 964-4050 for assistance with this process. We are most familiar with this process and will be able to help you with whatever issues you may have related to *Year Contracts* and *Section Assignments*. It is our hope that addressing these issues now will help prevent questions or complications as we transition to the next academic year.

Workshops

Today’s Students: The Millenials

Friday, March 18th, noon to 1:00, SE221
Learn what motivates today’s students.

Teaching Table: Engaging Students and Establishing An Identity with Their Major

Wednesday, March 16th, noon-1:00, Emeriti

Creating PDF Documents

Wednesday, March 16th, 1:00-2:00, C243
Create .pdf files using Adobe Acrobat, Office 2007 and the free PrimoPDF.

Vspace Advanced course Development

Friday, March 18th, Z302
Topics include groups, gradebook, Q&A session.

Vspace Gradebook 2

Friday, March 25th, 10:00-11:00, Z302
Learn about a new grade book tool-Gradebook 2.

www.svsu.edu/workshops

Save the Date!

Friday, April 8th at 5:00 P.M. for the 2nd annual Adjunct Faculty Awards Banquet to be held in the Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms.

The purpose of this event is to honor the service adjunct faculty have given to the University.

Formal invitations will be mailed soon so look for them in your mail box and RSVP as soon as possible!

The End of Disney World

At times, articles in this newsletter have been devoted to discussing the characteristics of the Millennial Generation. This generation consists of those citizens who now range in age from fifteen to thirty. The gist of these articles has dealt with issues related to understanding the core values, behaviors and expectations of this generation.

Recently, as a result of research, some professionals who follow generational trends have altered their discussion of the millennials and point to the fact that the economic downturn has had a sobering effect on their values and goals. Michael Bradley, an adolescent psychologist, was quoted in *USA Today* (6/23/2009), as saying that this new turn of events can be likened to the end of Disney World. A 2009 survey of 1,065 Americans aged 18-29 conducted by JWT, a Marketing and Advertising Agency, suggested that 60% of the sample feel as though their generation is being dealt a tremendous blow as a result of the recession.

Being socially conscious, environmentally aware and demanding consumers are some of the key characteristics of the Millennials. Their decisions will probably thrust this generation into simpler lifestyles. According to Bradley, "It is their version of the American Dream. They talk more about having autonomy and freedom and in so doing, not being as enslaved to the material goals they perceived their parents being caught up on. They do talk about life happiness not based on ones economic success or achievement as much." Millennials see achievement in two ways: the first is that they want their work to be meaningful and the second-they want to be happy in their jobs.

So how does this relate to the ways in which we teach this generation? First, it is important to appreciate that this is a generation which is highly efficient at multi-tasking and thrives on group work. This is a generation that seeks challenges and decries boredom. This is also a generation who solidly knows what they want to do with their lives but need a structured plan to achieve their ends.

Therefore to teach to this generation, be aware that they appreciate diverse forms of meaningful instruction. They want to do active learning, service learning or group work as these provide meaningful learning experiences for them. Also utilize their technological abilities because this is an area where they excel and make certain that your course is very structured. As well, provide leadership in the classroom because they want to learn from you. Finally, these young adults have ideas and opinions that they want to be heard, so listen to them.

"Greening" Your Course

The University has become increasingly concerned about the use of copy machines to reproduce handouts for students. This concern stems from the fact that it is very expensive to make copies and support the maintenance on copy machines. Here are some alternatives:

- If you have a VSpace, you can post all of your handouts in the "Resources" tab for your students to access.
- If you do not have VSpace, you can send messages and assignments to your students by utilizing the roster function on Cardinal Direct. As you bring up your roster you will note that there is a link titled, "E-mail these students." Once you select this link, you can cut and paste text into the "E-mail Text" space.
- Create a group in VMail and attach all of your documents to outgoing emails.
- Utilize Google Docs, where you can upload, store, and share files for your students. Students can also utilize Google Docs to collaborate on group assignments.

If you can employ one or more of these solutions, you will be helping the University be more fiscally sound and help the environment, which sets a good example for the students, too!

Spring Break Hours

The Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs will be open during Spring Break for limited hours. Our hours of operation will be 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday next week. Also, please note there will be no makeup exams during the week of Spring Break. Finally, we regret to inform you that our makeup exam period this Friday, March 4th, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. is cancelled. However, we will still proctor makeup exams on Friday, March 4th from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.. We apologize for any inconvenience. Regular office hours and makeup exam times will resume Monday, March 14th.