SIMMONS

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

November 23, 2015

Dr.Laura Saunders

School of Information and Library Science

Dear Dr. Saunders,

Thank you for your participation in the Center for Excellence in Teaching’s Classroom Observation and Small Group Individual Diagnosis (SGID) program. You welcomed CET staff into your Foundation of Library & Information Sciencesclassroom on October 29, 2015 and we observed part of your course and conducted an SGID with your students. Later, CET staff met with you for a follow-up consultation to discuss the results.

CET’s classroom observation is a confidential and voluntary service that allows faculty members to receive detailed feedback and insights on their teaching. The observation is followed by the SGID, a professional development tool that elicits detailed discussion-based student feedback. After the CET facilitator observes part of the class, the faculty member leaves and the facilitator asks small groups of students to discuss the three best aspects of the course and the three areas that could be improved to enhance their learning experience. The facilitator later discusses the compiled, anonymous student feedback with the faculty member. The student feedback gathered through this process tends to be much more accurate, detailed, and useful than data from end-of-semester written student evaluations.

Faculty members who participate in this program benefit in a number of ways. Because this program is conducted during the semester, they have the opportunity to improve a course while it is in progress, as well as for future semesters. Faculty are able to demonstrate that they are invested in student learning, which contributes to a more positive classroom culture. Participants are also able to address hidden problems that may have been impeding student learning in their course.

Your participation in the Classroom Observation and SGID program demonstrates a dedication, openness, and willingness to improve the quality of your teaching. We hope that the observation, student feedback, and follow-up consultation continue to support your efforts to improve the quality of your teaching.

Thank you again for your participation,

M. R. Diamond

M. Rosalyn Diamond, PhD  
Associate Director