



Mellon Faculty Institute Evaluation – PROJECT PARTNER SUMMARY August 2003

Overview

The following is a summary of the results from the post summer institute evaluation. Eight out of eleven participants sent the survey responded to it. The others indicated that they had not participated enough to feel they could adequately respond to the survey.

Several themes emerged from responses as a whole. With regards to the institute itself, respondents were quite pleased with it – respondents rated it a four or five in terms of its effectiveness. Overall, they felt it went well and enjoyed working with, and learning from one another. Suggestions for change to the institute itself centered around how its curriculum should be organized, time issues, e.g., length of institute and sessions, more time for the fellows to work on the syllabus during the daily session in small groups, alone, or in consultation with a facilitator. The logistics involved in keeping the institute and fellows on track with homework and completion of goals and ensuring the facilitators were communicating etc., were also mentioned as areas for improvement. Library resources and assessment were listed as areas that required more time.

The survey also asked a number of questions regarding the collaborative aspect of the project. Comments throughout this section of the survey illustrate a group that is still cohering and learning how to work with one another. Respondents tended to reflect on specific 'bumps' in the road when working together, for example, the difficulties of knowing what was happening during the institute if one did not attend each session, lack of response to emails, and the need for more planning prior to the institute. In acknowledging a need for improved collaboration, the respondents also expressed a strong desire to continue to work together, and a strong appreciation for having learned more about the group at the same time wanting to learn even more. The ratings regarding collaborating on developing and implementing were quite high (range: 3.7 – 4.6, on a scale of 1 – 5) indicating that the respondents were pleased with the results of their work and desired to continue to work together.

Comments in this part of the survey did not always reflect the ratings; this may be a reflection of the respondent's willingness to recommend ways to improve, a tendency on their part to hold quite high expectations and not always articulate the positive aspects of the project. In all however, respondents acknowledged that collaboration requires a great deal of work on the part of all of the participants.