

# Perspectives on Being the Campus Representative as an Assistant Professor: Lessons Learned

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# Presentation Outline

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- Brief history
- How I became Campus Representative
- What worked, what didn't
  - Lesson's Learned
- Thoughts on the future

# Why ASEE?

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- Had an interest in engineering education
- Introduced by then CR Thomas Weber (UB, SUNY)
  - Encouraged to form a student chapter of ASEE
  - <http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/Students/Organizations/asee/officers.html>
- Read ASEE Prism...excited that such interest in education existed (if only in small pockets)

# How did I become CR?

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- Hired on in August 1999 at Tenn Tech
- Later that year, questioned the Dean about who is ASEE Campus Rep
  - Dean: “I am...are you interested in the position?”
  - Me: (thinking: *Wow...an opportunity to get in good with the Dean...take on this service opportunity*) “Yes...I’d be happy to.”
  - Dean: “Okay” (thinking: *Wow...I don’t have to do that anymore*)

# Lesson's Learned: Lesson 1:

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## □ Meet with the Dean regularly

- Keep him/her in the loop on activities, even if not asked
- Have something written (perhaps in an email) about any commitment from the Dean
- Easy to promise things in July (after the fiscal year)...harder to deliver the following June. Paper trail helps.

# Lesson 2:

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- Make sure you can answer the question:  
***What is the value of an ASEE membership?***
  - When recruiting, this will come up.
  - Be familiar with ASEE literature (benefits of membership)
    1. ASEE Prism
    2. Sectional membership
    3. Division/constituent committee membership
    4. JEE at a nominal cost
    5. Discounted registration at ASEE conferences and related events
    6. ASEE members only access to [www.asee.org](http://www.asee.org) (JEE archives, etc.)

# Lesson 3:

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## Use ASEE National Resources

- Tim provided me with back issues of ASEE Prism
  - Used in recruiting letters (not email) to those faculty who were non-members
- Fliers available as well

# Lesson 4:

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- Do more than “make information available”
  - Identify faculty who would be good candidates for sectional and national awards
    - Form committee to internally “nominate” those individuals
      - Send letters (with cc to Chair)
    - Provide support in any way asked
    - Most nominated faculty are very grateful to be recognized, even internally



# Lesson 5:

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- Start a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series
  - It costs no money (Dean will like!)
  - Doesn't need to be every week (maybe just once a month)
  - Informal → perhaps just getting together to discuss a relevant topic
  - Be pro-active: invite speakers to moderate from ENG/CHEM/PHYS/CS/BIOL/MATH/C&I/PSY
  - Be consistent
    - Don't have six sessions one semester and zero the next.
  - Perhaps identify "liaisons" in different departments to help in advertising

# Lesson 6:

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- If possible, explore the idea of a Teaching Workshop
  - Likely already have great resources on campus
    - Use them
    - “Expert Teachers”, C & I faculty, PSY faculty
  - Good to recruit new ASEE members
  - ½ day – full day (Dean might spring for lunch)
  - Cover pedagogy, both in theory and practically
    - Perhaps have someone discuss what works
  - Potentially open it up to more-experienced faculty
    - Even faculty from other colleges, if applicable

# Sample Workshop

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- Dean Welcome
- Eng. Education – Introduction
  - ASEE (National/Sectional/Local)
  - Expert Advice on Instructional Methods
    - PBL, Learning Styles, Active Learning, etc.
- Discussion on Exams/Grading
  - Importance of Assessment
- Educational Items on Campus
  - PCB, Team Member Selection
- STEM Center
- On-Line Technology/Tech Institute
- Outreach/Service Learning
- Educational Scholarship
- REU/RUI/NSF
  - Reports from those who have been successful
  - Discussion of Educational-aspect to Career Award

# Lesson 7:

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- This is probably not the best service for a new Assistant Professor
  - Wherever you go, it seems that there is a shift from education-related activities to technical research activities associated with tenure
    - Only more so for education-related service activities...on campus!
  - There are other ways to get involved as an Asst. Professor
    - Make suggestions to campus representative

# Final Thoughts...

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- Comments/Questions
- Acknowledgement
  - Dean David Huddleston