Virtual Faculty Connection – Online Orientation – June 2, 2020

Participants: 14

What are the goals/activities included in orientation?

- Social – getting together with other (students, fellows, attendings, etc)
  - Creating a support system
  - Developing community within a cohort
- Putting new people at ease/make them feel welcome
- Exchange information
- Putting a face to names
- Setting expectations
- Baseline skills for success
- Inspiration – get excited about new/continued field of study
- Team Building

What worked well?

- Having a pre-defined structure
- Combination of asynchronous/synchronous content
- Synchronous sessions with built-in activities
  - Polls
  - Small groups
  - Interactive Q&A
  - Collaborative whiteboard tools
- Team Building Sessions
  - Scavenger Hunt
    - Collaborate, interactive (groups of 6-7)
    - Developed initially using app Goose Chase (good for small # participants, gets expensive over 10 people), changed to Google Doc/Google Drive folder to upload responses
    - Balanced easy/difficult questions
    - Some required research, some required engaging with different faculty/staff
    - Created a slideshow @ end of orientation with images submitted by different teams
  - Story Building
    - Groups develop a story one person @ a time
    - Longest coherent story wins
  - Blind Drawing
    - One person looks @ image, describes it to partner, who has to draw
    - Afterward, debrief talking about communication styles

Challenges

- Difficult to have a good sense of engagement – who is paying attention?
- Students eager to connect with each other
- Difficult to replicate Activities Day (things like volleyball, kickball, playing on the Mall, etc)
- When there are a lot of questions, it’s difficult to keep a presentation going coherently
  - Suggestion is to have an additional moderator in sessions anticipated to have questions, so that moderator can summarize and present questions at appropriate times
- Some things covered in a traditional orientation can’t be done online (or are difficult)
  - Computer access
  - Badging
  - Instrument training

Suggestions

- For synchronous sessions, request a colleague to help co-moderate/field questions
- Plan early
- Do a run-through in advance whenever possible
- Prepare for hiccups – they will happen – keep your humor, grace
- Consider adding a completion tracking component to ensure that key asynchronous materials are read/viewed/completed
- Use tools in online environment to encourage interactive engagement