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)
  o Creating a support system
  o 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
  o Polls
  o Small groups
  o Interactive Q&A
  o Collaborative whiteboard tools
- Team Building Sessions
  o 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
  o Story Building
    ▪ Groups develop a story one person @ a time
    ▪ Longest coherent story wins
  o 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
    o 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)
    o Computer access
    o Badging
    o 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