



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

Proposal for the 33rd Academic Chairperson's Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 8-10, 2017

Submitted by: Melissa J. Marcucci, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Biology, University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT 06117

- 1. Title of presentation:** Evaluating Workload: A Collaborative Approach between Dean and Department Chair
- 2. Authors:** Melissa J. Marcucci, Ph.D. and Sandra G. Affenito, Ph.D., R.D. FAND
- 3. Biosketch of primary presenter:** Melissa J. Marcucci, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Biology, School of Health and Natural Sciences, University of Saint Joseph

As an educator and researcher in the field of biology, Dr. Marcucci brings a vast amount of expertise to the students at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). As an associate professor and chair in the biology department at USJ, Melissa has taught all levels of biology coursework and led the faculty and students providing leadership, advisement and a wide range of necessary tools to succeed in biology-based professions and graduate programs. Her role as a mentor has not only allowed her to share her knowledge of biology in the classroom, but also in an advisory capacity in the research laboratory. Formerly a Research Affiliate in the Department of Internal Medicine at Yale University, Melissa was an active member of a dynamic lab focused on the dysregulation of insulin signaling in type 2 diabetes. Her connection to the laboratory permitted student exposure which provided them with a tangible experience to support integration of concepts and techniques at the undergraduate level. Melissa's publication record and vast experience with mentoring and advising students for scientific presentation are indispensable tools for the success of our students at USJ. As the co-chair for Symposium Day, the student research day at USJ, Melissa plays a significant role in fostering student understanding of the importance of scientific publication and presentation of their work. As an appointed member of the Institutional Review Board at USJ, she mentors colleagues on research design in order to advance research proposals that are of high quality and ensure the safety of students and subjects involved. Her role on the Education Committee for the American Society of Cell Biology (ASCB) has kept her actively engaged with current programming for undergraduate education and research, and previous work with the Retention Committee at USJ has enabled her to explore issues that are critical for student success in the sciences at small undergraduate institutions. Melissa is an active member of many pertinent professional societies (ASCB, AAAS, ACUBE, NTSA) and has been included as the PI on recent grant submissions (NSF S-STEM) to enhance recruitment and retention of women in STEM. In 2011 for her accomplishments in teaching and research, Dr. Marcucci was recognized by her colleagues and the Hartford Business Journal as one of the most successful leaders in her industry under the age of forty ("40 Under 40"). As the current Chair of the Department of Biology and former Chair the Faculty Affairs Committee, Melissa works to ensure institutional success by collaborating with faculty and with the senior administration in order to maintain a balanced environment which understands and supports the needs of both faculty and students. Ongoing projects include review and submission of grants for the biology department, institutional workload and promotion and tenure policy review, program review and the development of an assessment plan in the biology department and STEM outreach in the local community.

4. Additional author information: Sandra G. Affenito, Ph.D., R.D., FAND, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.

Sandra G. Affenito became Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in July 2014. As Associate Provost, Dr. Affenito provides leadership in the development, maintenance, and growth of the University's research and graduate program infrastructure and capacity. She advises the President, Provost, and other senior-level executive administrators in the formulation of programs and policies to enhance the University's graduate education mission. Affiliated with the academy for over thirty five years, Dr. Affenito has over fifteen years of administrative experiences across multiple disciplines in different academic positions. She has served as a Department Chair, Division Chair, Assistant Dean, and Dean. From 1997 to 2009, Dr. Affenito served as professor of Nutrition at the University of Saint Joseph and in 2010, she was appointed to serve as the Dean of the School of Health and Natural Sciences.

Dr. Affenito holds a Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Connecticut; she completed post-doctoral training at Wesleyan University through the Office of Women's Health/National Institute of Health Reentry Program in Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Affenito is a 2012 alumna of the HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration, Wellesley College (Certificate), and will be attending the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard July 2015. Dr. Affenito has written and co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and abstracts; she has served as a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for nine years, guest lead educator for the Journal of Obesity, and is as reviewer for several other scientific peer-reviewed journals. In collaboration with the Accreditation Council of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), Dr. Affenito is examining future education preparation of registered dietitians and nutrition practitioners. She recently published a Leadership Professional Development Module on Leadership Coaching and E-Mentoring. Recognized for her research in the area of women's health, Dr. Affenito was the 2002 recipient of the Ross Award in Women's Health of the Foundation of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She maintains active membership in the American Institute of Nutrition/American Society for Clinical Nutrition, is a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and as State Coordinator leads the Connecticut American Council on Education (ACE) Women's Network, whose mission is to advance women in higher education administration. Dr. Affenito's recent scholarship includes a focus on understanding the higher education environment to plan and lead change in the Academy.