

Dear Colleague,

As “veteran” faculty members—i.e., we’re full professors who have been at Eastern since at least 1991—we sometimes feel we’d like to talk to other faculty members of our own age and experience level. We’re still actively doing research, enjoying teaching, and committed to service, but, inevitably, we do these things differently than our younger colleagues. And we don’t get nearly enough opportunity to talk to and learn from faculty in other departments. A few years ago, the Office of Faculty Development helped organize a few exploratory meetings; responses there indicated that other older faculty seemed to feel the same way. We’ve been asked to follow through on that initial enthusiasm.

So we’d like to propose a tentative plan and solicit input. We’d like to suggest monthly get-togethers—either brown bags or late afternoon coffee hours—at which we talk about our current research interests one month, and some teaching issue the next. We might ask for a volunteer to start us off by presenting briefly on his/her topic, after which we’d have the opportunity to exchange ideas with each other. We’d be able to talk across disciplines to colleagues at the same stage of their careers. Less often, maybe once per semester, we could have purely social gatherings—a dinner at some local restaurant.

These meetings would not involve any commitment; faculty could attend only those activities that interest them. Please answer the questions below so that we know what would best serve your interests. We look forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,

Ruth Hoberman and John Best

**Please complete and return this form to the
Faculty Development Office through campus mail:**

1. **Are you most interested in meeting with other veteran faculty in order to:**
Hear about your colleagues’ research and talk about your own?
Talk over teaching?
Socialize?
Other _____

2. **Would you prefer to meet:**
At lunch time (brown bag)?
Late afternoon?
Do you have a preferred day of the week?

3. **Would you prefer to meet:**
On campus?
At someone’s house?
At a local coffee shop?