Faculty Learning Communities
Pearce Center for Professional Communication
Cameron Bushnell
What is a Faculty Learning Community?

• A small group of faculty, typically 6-15.
• Meeting regularly for a semester or a year.
• Studying a particular topic related to teaching.

• The concept of faculty learning communities was developed at Miami of Ohio, which has won awards and grants for its concept.
Proposed FLC

• TOPIC: “Enhancing Graduate Writing at Clemson”
• Conversations on graduate writing not only for improved theses, dissertations, and signature projects, but also for improved writing instruction for our undergraduate students in GA-led classrooms and labs.
WHY Graduate Writing?

• An Untapped Resource for Career Competitiveness

• Writing is the dominant way in which knowledge is presented and assessed:
  • Comprehensive Exams
  • Theses & Dissertations
  • Conference Presentations
  • Publications

• And there is an erroneous assumption that students already know how to write before they begin graduate school.
Potential FLC Discussion Items

1. Writing instruction is critical to presenting information, including in the undergraduate classroom.
2. HOW something is written is just as important as the content.
3. Graduate writing is different than undergraduate writing, involving complexity, duration, different genres, and varying purposes.
4. Professionalization & its changes:
   - Increased scholarly productivity
   - Inclusivity
   - Identity and emotional support