

## TIPS FROM YOUR FACULTY COLLEAGUES ON CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT (Taken from the Classroom Management flex event held on April 22, 2010)

1. Do at least two things at the beginning of every term.

First, reflect on those triggers of disruptive or disrespectful student behavior that set you off beforehand and evaluate if they rise to the level of true disruption or distraction to the *students* in the class, not just us. Yes, we can't function well as teachers if we are distracted, but sometimes we have to loosen up a bit in order to foster that comfortable sense of community in the classroom. Understandably, this can be fine line to walk.

Second, make our expectations for appropriate and inappropriate classroom behavior very clear early on and throughout the term. Use the technique of having students generate the "rules of conduct" at the beginning of the term. These "rules" or expectations need to be regularly reinforced. We also need to be clear on the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

2. How do we handle students sleeping in class? This goes back to assessing our personal triggers. Faculty (myself included) should strive to look beyond the surface behavior and work with students individually when issues arise. Is a student's inability to stay awake in class fundamentally different than knowingly texting or engaging in other behaviors that are truly distracting to the other students of the class?

3. Be aware of what "pushes your buttons". Understanding this helps instructors (and deans) respond appropriately rather than rashly. There's a book called "Radical Collaboration" that has a chapter on this and an activity people can do to help identify their buttons and react in a better way to those situations.

4. What to do on the first day of class:

- Creating community,
- Getting to know one another,
- Empowering the students in appropriate ways, and
- Establishing rules using different strategies

5. Ask the class to answer the question, "What does a good classroom look like?" either as part of a discussion or as a writing assignment could help structure the classroom experience and engage the students so they feel part of the process and have a stake in the outcome.

6. There is someone to go to if we have a problem with a student. (The office is Student Discipline. The Student Discipline Officer is Elaine Ader, 558-2062, [adere@scc.losrios.edu](mailto:adere@scc.losrios.edu))

Got a Tip? Please send it to [adere@scc.losrios.edu](mailto:adere@scc.losrios.edu) for inclusion on the list.