FROM PERSONAL RECORDS TO PERSONAL GROWTH:

A FACULTY WELLBEING FRAMEWORK



SARAH MCCONNELL, PROFESSOR OF LEGAL PRACTICE ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ~ BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND The belief in the improvability of ourselves & each other





Teaching & Coaching: Beyond the Obvious Parallels

- Teaching ↔ Coaching: Meeting people where they are
- Observing carefully, providing guidance for growth
- What about systematic coaching principles in our classrooms?
- But what about coaching ourselves?

The Sport of Fitness

Turned conventional fitness wisdom on its head

The Science: Specific, measurable goals with systematic tracking

5/1:

10:00 mile

6/1:

9:45 mile

Focus: Overall wellbeing through incremental improvement + community + FUN





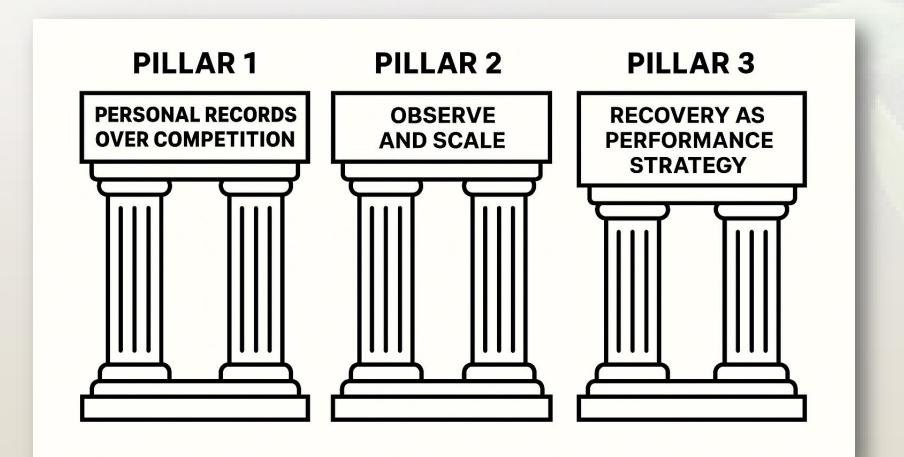
"Constantly varied, highintensity, functional movement"

Scaled & adapted to anyone—novice to advanced athlete



A Systematic Framework

"The belief in the improvability of ourselves and each other"



PERSONAL RECORDS May 2025

Back Squat: 135 \rightarrow 155 lbs \checkmark

500m Row: 2:15 \rightarrow 2:10 \checkmark

Deadlift: 185 → 200 lbs √ **CROSSFIT PRINCIPLE:** PERSONAL RECORDS

Success

Personal Improvement

FACULTY PERSONAL RECORDS

Student connections: $3 \rightarrow 7$ per week \checkmark

Boundary days: $2 \rightarrow 4$ per week \checkmark

Energy level: Drained \rightarrow Energized \checkmark

FACULTY APPLICATION: TRACK YOUR GROWTH

X Feeling pressure to "measure up"

★ Falling victim to the "shoulds"

Personal improvement tracking

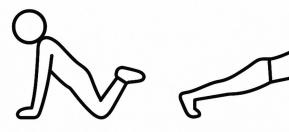
✓ Individual path honoring

CROSSFIT PRINCIPLE: *OBSERVE & SCALE*



Personalized cues respect individual structure





Beginner

Intermediate

Advanced

Same movement, different abilities

FACULTY APPLICATION: MINDFUL SELF-AWARENESS



What depletes you? What restores you? When do you feel most authentic? Move beyond "should" to "what works"

CROSSFIT PRINCIPLE: *RECOVERY AS PERFORMANCE*

- Rest days = Part of training
- Recovery \neq Absence of work
 - Strategic restoration

| MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|--------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Heavy Day | Cardio & Gymnastics | Rest | Strength Day | Rest | Cardio & Gymnastic s | Rest |

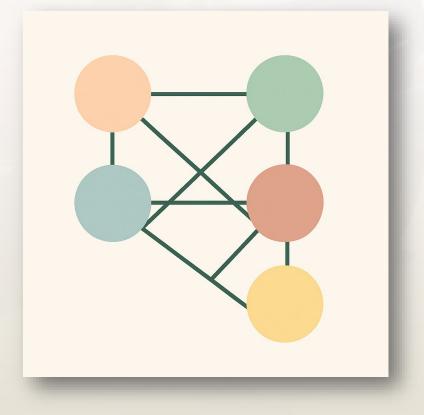
FACULTY APPLICATION: *RECOVERY AS STRATEGY*

• Recovery is not selfish—it is systematic & strategic

- Build sustainable practices
- Model healthy boundaries
- Performance = Work + Recovery

| MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI |
|-----------|-------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|
| Deep Work | Teach/ Connect | Restore | Deep Work | Teach/ Connect |

FROM INDIVIDUAL TO COMMUNITY



> Stop comparing \rightarrow Create psychological safety

- \succ Honor different paths \rightarrow Build inclusion
- \succ Model recovery \rightarrow Give permission

What Will You Start Today?

Log form available here:



What personal records might you track this week/month?

What will you observe about your energy patterns?

How could you build one recovery practice into your schedule?

Thank You



Want to connect? smcconnelldubois@rwu.edu