

## **COMMITTEE ON TEACHING 2000-2001 Annual Report**

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Teaching (COT) met approximately twice per month to carry out its charge of fostering and promoting the teaching mission of the campus. The work and accomplishments of the Committee during the 2000-2001 year are summarized below.

### **Budget/Planning Initiatives**

The Committee submitted a Long-Range Planning Initiative to the EVC's office. COT's requests fell into four categories: augmentation of funds for the award of Instructional Improvement grants; augmentation of funds for Excellence in Teaching Awards; provision of course relief for future chairs of COT; and permanent augmentation of staff for the Center for Teaching Excellence.

COT requested that its annual budget of \$120,000 for the Instructional Improvement Program be augmented by \$100,000 permanently, bringing the IIP budget up to \$220,000. In addition, COT requested that this baseline budget be increased by \$10,000 per year for the next 10 years, bringing the budget to \$320,000 by the end of the period. The point of the latter request was simply to maintain the quality of teaching support at its current level as the university adds 600 new faculty (including 300 new FTE). The purpose of the \$100,000 augmentation was to allow COT to better address Instructional Improvement proposals in the area of instructional technology (see below). The majority of requests reviewed by COT are of this type. Many technology-related instructional needs are met through divisional funding. However, since COT is the only faculty body on campus with the experience and charge of considering specifically the pedagogical merits of a request, COT advocated its own involvement in technology-related allocations. COT has received one-time augmentations for this purpose in past years. We note that funding requests far outstrip our regular budget, and that COT is often unable to fund proposals that it feels deserve funding. With the exception of 1998-99 and 2000-2001 (both years in which EVC Simpson approved one-time technology augmentations), the annual budget for IIP grants has remained stable at \$120K for more than a decade.

COT requested a permanent augmentation of \$7,000 in order to double the amount of the Excellence in Teaching Award, raising it from \$500 to \$1,000.

COT requested one course relief annually for the Committee chair. Depending on that person's department, the amount of the course relief would range between \$6,425 and \$8,050. COT Chair's duties have increased over time, making the case for course relief reasonable.

COT requested a permanent augmentation in the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) budget to allow for the hiring of a full-time additional staff member at the Assistant III level or above.

Except for the Chair's course relief, these initiatives were not approved. While this must be viewed in the context of recent changes in the budget climate, we note that the quality of instructional support provided by COT (and CTE) will decline significantly over the next ten-year period unless these issues are addressed.

## **COT and the New Campuswide Advisory Committees**

COT was asked early in the year by COC to consider sending a representative to two of the new campuswide committees advisory to EVC Simpson: the Information Technology Committee (ITC), and the Academic Planning Support Committee. After some discussion, COT concluded that the Academic Planning Support Committee was not an appropriate committee for a COT representative, while ITC was. The Chair of COT therefore joined the ITC, chaired by Campus IT Consultant Larry Merkley, meeting biweekly for all of the academic year. In the words of its charge, the ITC "provides an administrative forum for reviewing, evaluating, and recommending strategies, plans, and policies for campus information technology in order to support and advance the campus efforts." Most relevant to COT, ITC carried out a review of the campus's instructional technology requirements, and agreed to establish a committee to effect changes that would improve instructional support on campus, including the integration of currently dispersed units. ITC also provided input on developing technological support for the writing of narrative evaluations.

## **Instructional Improvement Program Grants**

One of the regular charges of COT is to adjudicate applications for Instructional Improvement Program (IIP) Grants. The Committee considered a total of 60 proposals. In all, 36 were funded for a total of \$209,994.75.

IIP grants fell into the following categories:

**Mini-grants** are available throughout the year when COT is in session. They support small-scale projects designed to improve undergraduate instruction. Mini-grants have a maximum budget of \$2,000. In the year-long competition for Mini-grants, there were 15 funded projects for a total of \$24,357.14.

**Course Development Fellowships** have provided \$6,000 to cover one course release for a fellowship recipient. (Starting this coming year, the amount has been increased, to be tied in most cases to the base salary of an Assistant Professor, step 3.) Course Development Fellows use the course release to develop a new undergraduate course or program in their departments or to make significant revisions in an older course. Recipients are asked to present and discuss some of their work at a group workshop in the following year. There were 13 applications for Course Development Fellowships, totaling \$78,000. Of these, 9 were funded for a total of \$54,000.

**New Technologies in Teaching Grants** offer up to \$15,000 for faculty who wish to experiment with incorporating new forms of technology into instruction. Projects might involve specialized computer software or hardware, course web sites, or technology more specific to a discipline. There were 14 applications within this category. Eight requests were funded, for a total of \$88,771.61.

**Major Grants** are for major projects aimed at improving undergraduate education. These might involve the hiring of student assistants and the development of internships, among other possibilities. Of 8 proposals received, COT funded 3, for a total of \$42,866.

Various methods were used in order to make the availability of the grant funding known. The annual Call for Proposals was sent out early last Fall quarter; announcements were also made by electronic mail. The Chair of COT and the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence held an open forum early in the

Winter quarter for faculty interested in the application process. The Center for Teaching Excellence also offered individual consultations to grant applicants all year long, as it has in the past.

### **Seventh Annual Convocation on Teaching**

With the Center for Teaching Excellence, COT co-sponsored the Seventh Annual Convocation on Teaching, held on February 9, 2001. The title was "The Changing Ecology of Teaching and Learning at UC Santa Cruz". Three faculty members acted as panelists: Bruce Cooperstein, Professor of Mathematics, William Ladusaw, Professor of Linguistics and Provost of Cowell College, and Anatole Leikin, Associate Professor of Music. The Chair of COT introduced the event and moderated. Following the panel presentation, discussion was opened up to all attending. Approximately 60 people attended the Convocation.

### **Excellence in Teaching Awards**

As in past years, in selecting recipients for this award, COT considered nomination letters from students, endorsement letters from department chairs, and statements on teaching from the nominees themselves. Nominees who had already received an Excellence in Teaching Award within the last 5 years were excluded from consideration. Following past practice, COT also took into account information provided by the Registrar's Office about outstanding narrative evaluations. Nominees with missing evaluations were given an opportunity to explain or correct the Registrar's report. Only those who were up to date on their narratives were considered for an award.

COT selected 12 faculty for Excellence in Teaching Awards. The awards were presented by the Chancellor and the COT Chair at a University House reception on May 25. The recipients were: Frank Andrews, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Jeremy Elkins, Lecturer in Legal Studies; Dana Frank, Professor of American Studies; Frank Galuszka, Professor of Art; Jody Greene, Assistant Professor of Literature; Conn Hallinan, Lecturer in Writing; Jorge Hankamer, Professor of Linguistics; Charlie McDowell, Professor of Computer Science; Daniel Palleros, Lecturer in Chemistry and Biochemistry; Robert Shephard, Lecturer in Economics; Michael Urban, Professor of Politics; Karen Tei Yamashita, Assistant Professor of Literature and Creative Writing.

In addition, COT gave honorable mentions to the following faculty: Jordi Aladro, Associate Professor of Literature; Dilip Basu, Associate Professor of History; Margaret Downs Baskin, Lecturer in Women's Studies; Grant Hartzog, Assistant Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Yonatan Katznelson, Lecturer in Economics; Dennis Kelso, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies; Tracy Larrabee, Associate Professor of Computer Engineering; Tara Martin, Lecturer in Writing; Ellen Moir, Director of Teacher Development for the Department of Education; Ralph Quinn, Lecturer in Psychology; Brian Staufenbiel, Lecturer in Music; William Sullivan, Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Amy Weaver, Lecturer in Writing.

### **COT Bylaw 13.28.1**

COT proposed changes to Santa Cruz Bylaw 13.28.1 that were approved at the last Academic Senate meeting last year. This brings the constituency and charge of the Committee more in line with COT's activities, and in addition codifies COT's role in overseeing the Center for Teaching Excellence in matters pertaining to COT.

### **Miscellaneous**

The COT Chair joined a UC-wide committee to adjudicate a new category of Teaching, Learning, and Technology Grants offered by UCOP. This committee worked by email, and then met once in Oakland for the final adjudication.

Director Beth Riddle of Instructional Computing and Manager Robin Ove of FITC demonstrated WebCT to COT, a web-based instructional support program. COT offered to support greater awareness of WebCT by arranging to have it demonstrated in certain departments.

COT read budget initiative proposals from both Writing Across the Curriculum and Academic Support Services, and sent memos advocating support, with some specific commentary, to EVC Simpson.

### **Acknowledgments**

The Committee is grateful for the continuing indispensable contributions of Eileen Tanner, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, and Laurie Babka, staff to COT from the Academic Senate Office. Student representatives Isaac Menashe and James Sheldon provided an invaluable perspective. We also thank Chris Laxton and Sheryl Martin-Schultz of Media Services for their input to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING

Robert Anderson  
Bruce Cooperstein  
Susan Harding  
Nicole Paiement  
Jaye Padgett, Chair

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