

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
January 13, 2009
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Rm 129

Present: Elisabeth Cameron (Chair), Doris Ash, Jessica Fiske Bailey, Tammi Blake, Henry Burnett, Ian Fullmer, Claire Max, Jim Phillips, Daniel Seldon, Hongyun Wang

1. Chair's Announcements:
 - a. Welcome new member Daniel Seldon
 - b. COT has a member sitting on AITC and needs a volunteer to attend two meetings this quarter.
2. Grants adjudication: The deadline is January 30. The COT grant adjudication meeting is scheduled for March 5th from 11-2 pm.
3. Promoting the teaching awards: A Facebook group was created and is getting hits by students. SUA volunteers put up flyers all bus stops yesterday and flyers were handed out at an RA training. Today students will be going to large classes making an announcement with handouts.
4. Minutes from December 9, 2008 passed.
5. CTE: "What do we want it to be?" The Office of Undergraduate Education has absorbed some of the administrative tasks of the director. The Instructional Technology Group and faculty development will be in McHenry which makes it a good place for the CTE office as well.
 - a. A question to the committee: What if there were no CTE? In response the committee made the following observations: If CTE closed the adjudication of teaching grants would go undone. The assessment component of each department that CTE administrates would need to be handled by the individual departments. Due to the aims & goals of the campus, it is culturally and symbolically important for there to be a CTE.
 - b. CTE provides an ongoing conversation about what is good teaching and the improvement of education which stimulates new ideas. Faculty are in need of strategies for teaching and CTE can help through research. CTE is also a place of faculty advocacy. CTE's website is valuable to faculty but numbers have not been measured. CTE should include outreach to departments, integrating TA training and support. Other areas of campus are having conversations about teacher training, teaching and learning and CTE can coordinate these efforts.
 - c. Other institutions do outreach to departments, using their CTEs as research centers on undergrad teaching. Informational handouts and links on this will be posted to the website. UCSC does on a very small scale what other institutions do: awards, grants, workshops, symposiums, but in other places the Academic Senate Office provides administrative support

to COT and CTE for joint programs. There is more staffing for those Centers because they are integrated with instructional technology units, TA teaching programs and FTE programs. Discussion: a faculty forum on redesigning CTE with input from deans and department chairs. Committee members would like to see disciplinary based training and courses in CTE specific to what is being taught.

4. Learning Management System: Sakai has been chosen. The VPDUE will make an announcement in the future. An “unveiling” event will be scheduled for spring to introduce faculty to the new system. Faculty from other campuses whom have had good success with Sakai will be brought in to demonstrate the product. The ITC handout Jim Phillips provided details why this system works best for UCSC. Factors in the decision include ongoing upgraded features and functionalities. The system will be hosted on campus. Sakai has been favorably accepted by UCSC so far but is being vetted with different groups. Benefits of the system include: Online instructor evaluation capability, a flexible grade book function and “E-Reserves” which is flexible and easy to use. A built in “ePortfolio” function for students to show examples of learning and writing, chronicle their history of learning for future employment and other pursuits. Faculty and departments can use the “ePortfolio” as well to evaluate teaching, faculty development and reviews. Media content on Sakai would go through the library’s digital repositories and a web conferencing feature is available. With all these features the LMS becomes a hub bringing together classes, research, instructors, departments, service assignments and more.

So attests,

Elisabeth Cameron, Chair
Committee on Teaching