

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
February 26, 2008
Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Room 129

Present: Henry Burnett (Media Services Director), Elisabeth Cameron (Chair), Rachel Dewey (NSTF Rep), Carley Friedman (GSA Representative), Ruth Harris-Barnett (CTE Director), Kevin Karplus, Cynthia Polecritti, Jie Qing.

Absent: Doris Ash.

1. Chair's Announcements.

Chair Cameron announced that there is the possibility of staffing at COT meetings for next quarter.

Chair Cameron and Director Harris-Barnett reviewed their February 13 visit to CEP for the Committee. At the meeting it was stressed how very little funds there are to give out for major grants at this time (only enough for ~6 awards) and that more money is needed for Instructional Improvement Grants if the Senate is to have a special awards program that would make any significant difference for efforts to redevelop courses to meet newly defined general education requirements, should such changes be passed by the Senate.

2. CTE Director's announcements.

Language Department Lecturer Ana Maria Seara was selected by COT as the Professor of the Year Award Nominee for 2008.

3. Mini-grants.

One mini-grant was awarded for \$2000.

4. Paper on Remote/Online Instruction.

COT discussed a draft response to the CCGA/UCEP paper regarding online instruction. In the discussion the following points were stressed: concrete examples of good online courses is needed to effectively response to the report; courses do not all need to be the same in terms of face-to-face interaction, including peer contact (some basic math classes, for example, could be handled entirely online); course assessment itself does not raise any issues unique to online courses; access and universality are no longer important issues because access to computers is now ubiquitous (including at K-marts and libraries); "UC quality" courses which are all or partially online will not necessarily save money nor faculty time. Chair Cameron will circulate a final draft the final letter this week.

5. Post symposium discussion.

Director Harris-Barnett reported that there were 41 people present at the recent Teaching and Learning Symposium, with faculty representing a higher percentage of the total than last year. The round table discussions were lively and the technology demonstrations seemed popular. COT discussed possible follow-through activities, including setting up a blog to maintain a dialogue and asking Professor Gordon Wells to give a monthly column. Members of COT noted the importance of specifically training Teaching Assistants for large classes; Associate Director Lisa Hunter (Center for Adaptive Optics) was mentioned as a useful contact in this area.

So attests,

Elisabeth Cameron, Chair
Committee on Teaching