

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
June 2, 2009
Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Room 129

Present: Elisabeth Cameron (Chair), Doris Ash, Jessica Fisk Bailey (Asst. Vice Provost), Tammi Blake (Staff Advisor), Claire Max, Jim Phillips (Director of ITG), Hongyun Wang.

Absent: Daniel Seldon, Ian Fullmer (SUA Representative)

Guests: Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education Bill Ladusaw
Victoria Pagani, Committee chair-elect

1. Chair Announcement:
 - a. COC social announcement: June 4th at the Center for Adaptive Optics from 4-6 pm for all committee members.
 - b. Four sets of COT minutes will be emailed to members for approval.
2. Bylaws change: Amendment to Chapter 13.29.1- Change to Membership. The committee voted and the change passed unanimously.
3. Guest VPDUE Bill Ladusaw on the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE): A handout on the budget reduction assignment for undergrad division was provided. He reports that budget reductions in the Office of Undergraduate Education will have minimal impact for the CTE as it will remain without a director for the time being but a faculty consultant with the title of Faculty Assistant to the Dean of Undergrad Education may be appointed. This faculty consultant would work with the VPDUE and the deans to learn what departments and divisions would like to see with the CTE's teaching and learning mission. He notes the importance of investing in resources for faculty development and cites the eventual need for a professional in the Director's position that can work with a variety of faculty regarding effectiveness in teaching.
 - a. Committee members and the VPDUE agree that an advisory committee should be formed to investigate goals and expectations of a center before putting a director in place. COT will be involved with this committee. A year and a half should be enough time to investigate and come up with a strategic plan. An official directive of the strategic plan for the role of the Center for Teaching and Learning was proposed: the support of all faculty including integration of technology and instructional development. COT is to consider what is needed in a CTE for this campus. In the past year COT has done research on CTE's around the nation. Jessica will share a report on this with the VPDUE on COTs behalf. If the VPDUE is able to preserve CTE in the midst of budget cuts, a larger CTE could be argued for but for now the committee needs to look at what a CTE successor might be. Members were concerned that essential functions of CTE have not been available this year due to the lack of a director, including support

- for junior level faculty. It is noted that the Scantron processing should be transferred out of CTE.
- b. A member reminds the committee that there is space in the new library available for faculty development: two classrooms, a seminar room and more space can be found for CTE activities. CTE could form a collaborative support system with librarians and Instructional Technology.
 - c. The VPDUE reports that the Instructional Improvement Grant (IIG) monies will not be affected by budget cuts this year. Regarding Assessment of IIG, a committee member wants to stay involved with the reporting system and development of the accountability system.
 - d. The committee expressed concern about staff support for COT. With no CTE director resulting in extra duties for committee members, there is a need for greater staff support and wonders how the work will be divided between the VPDUE's office and the Senate. COT may investigate the Vice Chancellor of Research's office and how it interacts with the Committee on Research (COR) and possibly seek parallel treatment of teaching and research. COT will look at the Committee on Research analyst duties and duties of the COR Chair. The committee agreed that IIG processes must be streamlined.
 - e. A new name for the Center for Teaching Excellence is arrived at: The Center for Teaching and Learning will now be the official name for the Center.
4. Jim Phillips gave the committee an update on Sakai: A Request for Proposals will be done and evaluated in June. In July a vendor will be selected. In August the vendor will work with the campus to make Sakai "live." In fall, Sakai will be connected to the student system. In January faculty will start using Sakai. For the 2009-10 year faculty will have a choice whether to use WebCT or Sakai. Next fall (2010) WebCT will be turned off and all will be using Sakai.
 5. Mini grants from last meeting: The committee agrees to issue no more mini grants this year and all existing applications are denied.
 6. SUA/ TA Diversity report from Matt: SUA will get results of the system wide student survey conducted last year. COT will write a letter of support for the concept of diversity sensitivity awareness training but would like to see specifics.
 7. Excellence in Teaching Awards: Information is available on eight programs at other universities for use in restructuring the awards. The committee engaged in a discussion regarding what should be recognized and encouraged by the awards and by what process that would be best achieved. The possibility of alumni and faculty nominations in addition to student nominations are considered. The committee agrees that the awards help send a message that the campus cares about quality teaching. A subcommittee for restructuring the Teaching Awards is formed to work via email this summer.

So Attests

Elisabeth Cameron

Committee on Teaching, Chair