

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
Meeting of October 18, 2006**

Present: Chair Murray Baumgarten, John Borrego, Lindsay Hinck, Cynthia Polecritti, Kevin Karplus, Ruth Harris-Barnett, Rachel Dewey, Henry Burnett, Jess McGuire and Jan Carmichael

Chair's Announcements

Jess McGuire, the GSA student representative, was welcomed to COT. The COT minutes for 10/4/06 were approved as written.

CTE Director Announcements

The teaching and learning symposium will be on February 15, 2007. Topics for the symposium will be discussed at the next meeting. COT agreed to have lunch at the University Center before the symposium. A mini grant proposal was reviewed which the committee agreed not to approve because it did not meet the criteria stated in the 2006-07 Call for Proposals.

Robert Foster Cherry Award

The committee agreed that it was too late to nominate a faculty member for this award. They will put this award on their spring agenda when they discuss the nomination for the Professor of the Year. Director Harris Barnett will send a letter to Baylor University expressing UCSC's desire to participate in this award next year. Chair Baumgarten will send a letter to VPAA Alison Galloway regarding the committee's decision not to nominate a member due to the time constraint.

Draft Campus Academic Plan

COT noted that the draft campus academic plan failed to mention much about teaching or students. The UCSC mandate is to teach students and this should be given a prominent place in the plan. They expressed their general frustration with the planning process and lack of implementation of plans on campus. The draft campus plan referred to plans submitted by departments four years ago which are now obsolete. COT would like the plan to address how it will be useful to our campus. A draft response will be circulated via email and the committee will finalize their response at the next meeting.

Grad Student Roles in University Instruction

COT had several comments regarding the grad student role in university instruction. A draft response will be distributed before the next COT meeting. They will also discuss this issue with Graduate Dean Lisa Sloan during her November 15th consultation. Members agreed to send Jan their comments for this consultation.

Online Evaluation Proposal

Senate Chair Crosby's response to COT regarding the online course/instructor evaluation proposal was discussed. COT will arrange a meeting with the Committee on Academic Personnel to discuss how the online evaluation process would be used at UCSC. COT noted that the administration would need to fund the costs for the pilot program and the online evaluation program. The current Scantron system is expensive and inefficient. An online system would provide more flexibility because departments can design their own questions. Another benefit is comments can be collected in a readable form. COT noted that online evaluations are most likely the future and it would be good for UCSC to be involved in the implementation of such a program. They agreed to invite VPDUE Bill Ladusaw to the next COT meeting to discuss the issue of online course/instructor evaluations.

Information Technology Committee Report

Chair Baumgarten reported on the Information Technology Committee meeting which provided a lot of context regarding last year's progress. COT noted the need to increase ITC's awareness on the issue of how to make technological advances in relation to teaching. Director Harris Barnett noted that ITC while currently engaged in administrative issues, is interested in the questions of supporting teaching.