

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING  
Meeting of November 1, 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

**Guests:** VPDUE Bill Ladusaw and FITC Manager Robin Ove

**Chair's Announcements**

The minutes for 10/18/06 were approved as written. Chair Baumgarten will report on the November 1<sup>st</sup> ITC meeting at the next COT meeting. He will continue to find a way to stress the importance of teaching into the ITC meeting discussions.

**CTE Director Announcements**

CTE Director Ruth Harris-Barnett stressed the level of importance of planning the Teaching and Learning Symposium. Committee members agreed to submit suggestions for a keynote speaker and faculty presentations to Ruth at [CTE@ucsc.edu](mailto:CTE@ucsc.edu) before the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. COT identified the relationship of research and teaching as a possible title for this year's symposium. The symposium continues to be a primary venue for faculty to share innovative and creative teaching ideas. The date for the Teaching and Learning Symposium is February 15, 2007.

**Consultation with VPDUE Bill Ladusaw**

VPDUE Bill Ladusaw stated there is a connection between the course evaluation issue and the need to provide faculty, both collectively and individually, instructional evidence of educational effectiveness. In order for course evaluations to be effective, faculty must be clear on what they want the students to learn. Teaching evaluations usually have two components: 1. educational objectives of the course and whether the objectives were achieved and 2. performance of the faculty. He said that nationally, the educational effectiveness appears to be the most important factor for evaluations. The culture of course evaluations must be addressed. Three Senate committees: the Committee on Academic Personnel, The Committee on Educational Policy, and the Committee on Teaching are all interested in the online course/instructor evaluation issue. VPDUE Ladusaw would like to facilitate the online evaluation discussion in a proactive manner with these three committees.

Chair Baumgarten noted that there is a recommendation from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) for COT to move forward with online evaluations. SEC suggested that the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) be included and that a pilot program be started. It was agreed that a pilot program would only be for online collection of data and not for online distribution. VPDUE Ladusaw said he could move forward immediately with a pilot program. UC Irvine and UC San Diego both have electronic online systems and he has contacted them to obtain information. Chair Baumgarten requested that Bill

develop a pilot program plan for COT to review. Bill stated he has \$50,000 earmarked for electronic online course/instructor evaluations. COT noted that UC needs to address the issue of rewarding outstanding teachers (offscale salaries). VPDUE Ladusaw said that until there is a connection of how we use evaluation data to measure effectiveness and tie it to community visibility that it is very difficult to address this issue of transparency.

The Instructional Improvement Program (IIP) budget was reduced by \$30,000 during the budget crisis. Each year in his budget proposal, VPDUE Ladusaw requests that this 30K be put back into the program but this has not been successful. He stated the strongest way to argue for this increase is to provide evidence of the impact of the funding. He asked COT to think about providing documentation to show that the IIP is a good investment for the campus. He also said he is willing to help COT and CTE with this issue. The goal is to get higher visibility of the grants in newsletter or educational journals.

The final issue discussed during this consultation was developing an Honors Program at UCSC. VPDUE Ladusaw is trying to create an early path for students in which they are connected to a major by the end of their first year. A challenging and supportive environment is essential for educational effectiveness. He stated that UCSC is the only UC not to have an Honors Program. COT noted that there have been freshman honors coursed in the past but they are no longer offered because the deans said they were not affordable. Also noted was that co-location of honors students has contributed substantially to the success of honors programs. VPDUE Ladusaw concluded by stating the need to create a profile in the admissions process for a UCSC Honors Program. Chair Baumgarten requested that Bill send COT the materials for such a program. This issue will be continued at a future COT meeting. Chair Baumgarten thanked VPDUE Ladusaw for consulting with the Committee on Teaching.

### **Draft Campus Academic Plan**

COT continued to discuss their comments on the draft campus academic plan. A draft response will be circulated via email and the final committee recommendations will be sent to Senate Chair Crosby.

### **Faculty Instructional Technology Workshops (FITC)**

FITC Manager Robin Ove asked for COT's input on the services provided to faculty and instructors on campus. There has been a lack of faculty interest and participation in FITC faculty development coursed and related opportunities. COT suggested that FITC assist faculty on site rather than at FITC locations. Another idea was that FITC develop a short presentation for departmental managers. Robin will consult with COT regarding Learning Management Systems (background materials were distributed) during Winter quarter.

### **Raising the Profile of Teaching at UCSC**

Due to lack of time this agenda item will be moved to the next COT meeting.