

Committee on Teaching (COT)
MINUTES
January 21, 2014,

Present: Charlie McDowell, *Chair*, Maria-Elena Diaz, Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Matthew McCarthy, Mary-Beth Harhen (ASO Staff), Suzanne Millward (ASO Staff)

Absent: Annapurna Pandey (NSTF), Jim Phillips

Announcements

The committee discussed a report in The City On a Hill about budget cuts in the Learning Support Services tutoring program. Questions about tutoring quality and fund types were raised. There are many different kinds of tutoring programs on campus, and COT agreed it will collect information on the infrastructure of tutoring programs and their funding.

The draft minutes from the final four fall quarter meetings (10/29, 11/12, 11/26, 12/10) were approved.

COT Forum Lightning Talks

The Committee on Teaching reviewed the logistics of the January 24, 2014 forum “So you think your lecture course is better than a MOOC?”

Online Course Evaluations

The committee discussed concerns about how the lost data will impact future teaching behaviors, and affect student participation in teaching evaluations. The committee agreed that offering class time to complete evaluations is a best practice, and the viability of using smartphones to complete online evaluations should be explored. COT also noted the importance of getting a good response rate, particularly in small classes. The committee agreed to ask departments with high response rates (specifically the Language Department) what they do to yield good participation in evaluations.

The problem of reliable internet access in classrooms across campus remains a concern for courses requiring online evaluations. The committee agreed that the next step is to ask Director Phillips if there are alternate spaces (with computers and internet) that can be reserved towards the end of each quarter for completing evaluations. COT will also look to Director Phillips to find out if there is a wireless hub loaner program that can be used to strengthen internet access in classes throughout the campus when evaluations are being completed.

The committee agreed that some incentives to increase evaluation responses suggested by COP, such as delayed (or early) release of grades or collecting a refundable fee, will be expensive and are not feasible at this point in time. COT did, however, discuss the possibility of sending out a communication asking faculty to list the things they do to get students to complete course evaluations.

The committee considered how to produce a document that would help make faculty aware of the relation between the number of evaluations received and the quality of the assessment of their teaching. COT considered asking the administration to do an analysis that explains how many responses are needed for different sized classes to know when the rate of responses become statistically significant.

UCSC Affiliation with Punjab Technical University (PTU)

PTU wants to work with UCSC, specifically BSOE so that its top students can come to UCSC on exchange, as transfer students, or Master program students. PTU is seeking assistance from UCSC faculty to develop programs that will prepare PTU students for UC. The hopes are that some UCSC students may want to take a year to study abroad at PTU, as well.

Chair McDowell explained that the hidden cost of this proposal, which is pushing to move quickly, is faculty time. The committee had numerous questions concerning UCSC's financing of this program, the tuition for PTU students wanting to attend UCSC, as well as how faculty workload could potentially be affected.

COT agreed to make an official inquiry to ask specifically what the cost will be to faculty and students at UCSC.

Coursera MOOC Agreement

VPAA Herbie Lee has been assigned administrative responsibility for UCSC's online presence. The Senate Executive Committee has written to the VPAA about developing a vetting process and selection criteria for Coursera offerings that will get campus resources for development.

The Coursera-MOOC agreement seems to have been stalled. COT agreed that an update on what is holding up this process, as well as what negotiations are moving forward, is necessary.

VPDUE Proposal for Support of International Enrollment Growth

This report is a proposal about how UCSC will support significant growth in international enrollment. UCSC will have to consider how courses will need to be redesigned to serve students for which English is not their first language. The report says that only 15 percent of international students passed the analytical reading/writing examination, so further consideration needs to be given as to how students who did not pass this exam can be successful at our campus.