

Committee on Teaching (COT)
MINUTESⁱ
May 15, 2012, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall 129

Present: Daniel Selden (Chair), Pascal Garaud, Dee Hibbert-Jones, Maria Schonbek, Graeme Smith, Mary Flannery (NSTF), Michael Tassio (ASO staff)

Guests: Jim Phillips

Absent: Peter Rovegno (GSA)

Course Time Slot Proposal

The committee reviewed Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Richard Hughey's recent proposal to increase the number of class time slots. The VPDUE's proposal is to add a 5:00-6:10 p.m. time slot on Monday-Wednesday-Friday; to shift Monday-Wednesday classes to 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.; and to gradually place a small selection of rooms on a Monday-Wednesday 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. schedule. The committee made the following remarks about the proposal:

In general, members found the plan to be pedagogically beneficial to the campus as a whole. The committee saw so many advantages to adding extra time slots to the regular Monday/Wednesday schedule, it wondered if a similar arrangement might not also be made to the Wednesday/Friday schedule. Members noted that while some conflicts may arise due to overlapping time slots, in general the positive consequence of a more robust distribution of class times should far outweigh any negative repercussions.

Adding class time slots would, however, entail two related problems. First, students are bound to impact campus resources such as the libraries and computing labs more heavily insofar as they will want to use such campus facilities to study later in the evening, especially on Mondays and Wednesdays (and potentially Fridays too). Secondly, Instructional Support Services would need to be increased to accommodate the lengthened duration of class hours. COT members reasoned that full IT support should be available through the evening until the last class finishes.

Chair's Updates

Chair Selden read portions of a letter he recently received from Senate Chair Susan Gillman responding to COT's letter on March 20. The committee discussed the letter and strategies for completing the annual report.

Chair Selden noted that the membership of COT will be completely different next year, and that it should not be the prerogative of the current COT to define the pro-active agenda for next year. Nevertheless, there are several topics that COT has considered this year that the next composition of COT may want to consider. The Chair will craft an annual report that accurately reflects on the accomplishments of this COT and notes business that the next COT might take up.

The committee agreed by and large that the most significant issue that COT could tackle is online education. There is a lack of central leadership on campus with regard to online education and departments and divisions would benefit from more guidance.

Additionally, the committee might consider taking up issues related to the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), which has been steadily defunded and is currently without a director. There may be an opportunity for COT to creatively revitalize the CTL, restoring it as a useful resource for faculty.

Finally, the committee has kept a keen awareness of technological resources that have an impact on teaching. This year's committee has been very interested in how technology is used in the classroom, its benefits and limitations. As UCSC moves towards a greater reliance on online resources this topic will continue to be an area where COT may want to engage with these issues. Members noted that Jim Philips' expertise in this regard has been an asset to the committee.

Chair Selden recommend that the final meeting of COT, scheduled for May 31, be cancelled pending necessary business.

The Chair thanked the committee for their hard work, noting that COT has accomplished much as a result of everyone's participation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Selden, Chair
Committee on Teaching

¹ The meeting minutes of May 15, 2012, were approved by COT via email.