

Committee on Teaching (COT)
MINUTES
February 4, 2014, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Present: Charlie McDowell, *Chair*, Maria-Elena Diaz, Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Jim Phillips, *sits with*

Absent: Annapurna Pandey (NSTF), Matthew McCarthy, Michael Chemers, Anjali Dutt

Routine Announcements

The minutes of January 21 were approved.

VPDUE Proposal for Support of International Enrollment Growth

COT reviewed the VPDUE's Proposal for Support for International Student Growth and Campus Globalization, in addition to a proposed job description for an AVP of international education. Some members showed hesitancy about the proposed international growth due to lack of transparency concerning the proposal's targets and where, exactly, all the funds raised from international tuition will go. The committee also showed concerns about the proliferation of administrators; new jobs are being created for these efforts, however such jobs are separate from already existing programs on campus some of which are presently dealing with budget-cuts (such as the English Writing program). The question was raised as to what the intangible cost of helping students improve their English will be, and if the increased funds from this program will support other hidden costs such as larger class sizes.

It was noted by COT that having international students can enhance educational experiences especially on the graduate level, but that internationalization may have an uneven impact on both teaching and learning at the undergraduate level. The committee suggested that the Center for Transformative Learning provide information about what areas are largely impacted by international students. COT expressed concern about the quality of students and the distinction between students who do not have the academic qualifications to attend UCSC versus the students who do, but who have trouble communicating in English. Regardless, if sufficient funds will not be provided to offset the cost incurred through significant increases in international students, then UCSC may need to implement a cut-off score on the ELWR and TOEFL so English language resources for already enrolled students aren't impacted further.

The committee also discussed additional resources that will be necessary for international students. For instance, the campus needs to start providing more housing for students over holiday breaks and campus closures. Some funds gained from the proposed program should be used to assist students in paying for staying at hotels or organizing home-stay programs so our students far away from their home country have a place to be over the holidays.

Overall, COT agreed that the issue should be reviewed further by CPB and that stronger language on how to spend the funds to support not just students, but existing teachers and graduate student instructors, should be considered. The report also needs to include a section about the differential impact on the departments/divisions. Additionally, the proposal should provide more specificity on how the money raised from international students will support students who are residents of California.

Forum Lightning Talks regrouping

COT discussed next steps concerning the "So you think your lecture course is better than a MOOC" forum. It was decided that the committee will use the reserved April 23 Senate Meeting date for the rescheduled forum. First, the committee will reach out to the originally scheduled speakers to confirm their availability on the new date, then another call for presentations will be

sent out, announcing who is already signed-up to present, and requesting additional proposals.

Additionally, the committee will directly contact individuals considered for excellence in teaching awards.

On-line Course Evaluations

Director Jim Phillips shared updates on the response rates from fall quarter's course evaluations as well as an incident report from the vendor, Sakai. A question was raised about whether or not the graph gave information about paper evaluations as well as online evaluations, or if the data was only about online evaluations (some departments may be doing a combination of online and paper evaluations, and it is unclear what the numbers actually represent). It was agreed that Jim will look into this matter and report back at the next committee meeting. COT will additionally send a letter to the Language program inquiring how they have such high response rates to online course evaluations.

Chair McDowell described disappointment with Sakai and suggested COT open a discussion and search for alternative platforms. Based on the current contract, this issue requires some immediate action; it would be great if faculty could provide input on what they think works about Sakai, as well as the types of services they would like to have, which are currently unavailable. Ultimately, whether or not faculty want to continue with Sakai or would prefer to try a new platform will need to be determined within the next 18 months. COT recommended looking for a new system, and that the Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (CCT) look into options other than Sakai, and the administration should conduct a needs assessment to understand what basic functionality is essential. Director Phillips will bring the issue to LTC once COT starts a discussion with VPDUE Richard Hughey, the executive sponsor for Ecommons.