

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014

Present: Judith Scott (chair), Viqui González-Pagani, Phil Hammack, Matthew McCarthy, Marc Matera, Jim Phillips (Director of Learning Technologies), Christopher Kan (GSA Representative), Nadia Mufti (CUIP Intern), Barak Krakauer (committee analyst).

Absent: Kevin Bell (NSTF).

1. Consent Agenda

The minutes of October 22, 2014 were approved with changes.

2. Announcements

Director Phillips announced that FITC's search for an operations manager is nearing its end, and that two or three candidates will be giving presentations on campus. COT members are encouraged to attend these presentations.

The committee also selected some of its members to serve on the online course committee, the classroom committee, and the online course evaluation committee.

3. Reinvesting in Teaching at UCSC Report

The committee's report about the state of teaching support at UCSC has been distributed along with the Academic Senate meeting call. Members prepared for the committee's oral report at the Senate meeting. The committee determined that Chair Scott would present a five-minute oral report that summarizes the written report, and that other committee members would join her to help answer questions. COT also decided to make use of this presentation to publicize the website as part of their efforts to provide teaching support, and to use the website to obtain feedback from faculty about the committee's efforts.

4. Learning Management Systems

Last year, the Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (CCT) began a more intensive study of learning management systems, and began a small program that encouraged faculty members to use Canvas. CCT intends to enlarge the Canvas project to get more faculty members involved and determine whether Canvas is easier to use and how it should be implemented.

COT recognizes that selecting a learning management system has clear technological and pedagogical implications, and that the pedagogical component of this selection falls under the committee's purview. While technical issues about the implementation of such a platform are

important, COT is most concerned about whether a learning management system can provide support for innovative teaching practices, such as “flipped” classrooms and tools for peer collaboration. The committee agreed that choices such as these should not be made by a small group.

Many committee members, however, thought that such a switch may be premature, noting that the campus switched from WebCT to eCommons as recently as 2010. Given the difficulty of transitioning to a new system, the committee should better understand the reasons for switching. COT will continue this discussion at subsequent meetings, and attempt to get a clear understanding of the benefits of switching to Canvas.

5. Discussion of COT Intern and Pedagogy Project

Members viewed the website being constructed by Nadia Mufti, CUIP intern. The committee was pleased with the website so far, and wanted to add content related to the purpose of the site, a copy of the report about the state of teaching support, and a form for comments from faculty. The committee decided that the site should be discussed at the Senate meeting.