

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE ON TEACHING**  
**January 17, 2007**  
**Wednesday, 9:30-10:45, Kerr Hall Rm 129**

**Present:** Chair Murray Baumgarten, Henry Burnett (Media Services Director), Rachel Dewey (NSTF Rep), Ruth Harris-Barnett (CTE Director) Lindsay Hinck, Kevin Karplus, Roxanne Monnet (Senate analyst), Cynthia Polecritti.

**Absent:** John Borrego, Jess McGuire (GSA Rep).

**Chair's Announcements**

The regular meeting time for winter quarter will be every other Wednesday from 9:30-10:45.

Minutes from November 29 accepted.

A member of COT has been requested to meet with CEP Chair Jaye Padgett and others who are meeting with the divisional deans regarding large lecture courses. If Chair Baumgarten cannot attend, Member Polecritti will, assuming it works with her schedule.

**CTE Director Announcements**

At the recent Information Technology Committee (ITC) meeting, Director Harris-Barnett presented academic year 08 changes as requested by the Learning Technology Committee. The ITC plan is to look for common themes between requests and goals submitted to them by various committees. Member Polecritti attended the meeting in lieu of Chair Baumgarten. The main discussion related to the process for gathering input. A Townhall is planned with students as the primary audience. One popular idea is for an Information Commons to be created in the Library. At which there will be a café, computer terminals, library staff, and information technology staff, allowing for face to face library and computer assistance.

Chair Baumgarten indicated that he may need to ask a member to attend the next meeting of ITC in his stead.

The Committee would like to know more about the budget that may be available via ITC for teaching and learning. Media Services received more funding in light of input received from the Learning Technology Committee. COT wondered whether there is a need for a group on campus for learning technology. This could take the form of an expansion to CTE with more staffing or a joint steering committee. COT will invite VPIT Larry Merkeley to a winter quarter meeting to discuss this topic, following

consultation with University Librarian Virginia Steel regarding the idea for the Information Commons.

### **Teaching and Learning Symposium**

The Committee received an update regarding the upcoming Teaching and Learning Symposium and discussed talking points to provide to Acting Chancellor Blumenthal and CPEVC Klinger.

The Committee on Teaching sees a number of important connections between teaching and research which we hope you will explore in your talk:

- Integrating research into the undergraduate curriculum, both in the classroom, and outside of it, helps foster intellectual curiosity and independent thinking.
  - Is there an institutional approach to integrating research into the classroom?
  - How can we enhance teaching outside the classroom?
- Today's undergraduates are tomorrow's graduate students and researchers; excellent undergraduate teaching is an investment in future research.
  - How do students learn how to do research?
  - How do we support students in making the transition from high school students who "know stuff" to independent researchers able to break new ground and create new knowledge?

We would also like to see strong institutional support for the teaching component of UCSC's research, teaching and service mission, in particular:

- Tangible rewards for excellence in teaching: rewarding outstanding teaching on a par with outstanding research in the tenure and promotion process. Current practice seems to be, that while poor teaching counts against a faculty member in promotion decisions, little distinction is made between adequate and excellent teaching.
- Increased support for positions with a primarily teaching focus, such as Security-of-Employment Lecturers. Particularly in departments serving a large number of students, faculty whose primary focus is teaching

### **Mini Grants**

One award was made at \$1,800 and a second \$1,113 with a request that a report be provided for publication in the CTE newsletter.

A third request was considered. Before awarding the grant, COT wants a commitment that the department will commit to the course's being offered a minimum of two more times (no further request for IIG funds) and that a report will follow those offerings.

It was noted that there is precedence for supporting professional development toward one's teaching.

**Follow up on response to the Draft Strategic Campus Academic Plan**

COT would like an update as to the timeline for the Senate to receive further feedback regarding the Campus Academic Plan in order to plan for further discussion at a future meeting.

**Adjudication meeting**

This year's major grant adjudication meeting will occur on Wednesday, February 28, from 12 noon-4 p.m. The location is to be determined.

**Grants budget planning for 2007-08**

Member Hincks will provide a draft budget request by February 8 for COT consideration at there February 14 meeting, prior to forwarding to the Senate Chair and on to CPEVC Klinger.

Attest,

Murray Baumgarten, Chair  
Committee on Teaching