Draft MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
April 1, 2008
Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Room 129

Present: Doris Ash, Tammi Blake (ASO Staff), Henry Burnett (Media Services Director), Elisabeth Cameron (Chair), Carley Friedman (GSA Representative), Ruth Harris-Barnett (CTE Director), Kevin Karplus, Cynthia Polecritti, Jie Qing.

Absent: Rachel Dewey (NSTF Rep).

1.   Chair's Announcements.

CTE Director Harris-Barnett noted that the deadline for materials for the Excellence in Teaching Award is this Friday. Materials will be available on the committee website starting April 7 or 8, and currently there are 15 nominees. Chair Cameron proposed and the Committee agreed upon a special COT meeting for selection on April 22nd at 10 am to decide the award recipient. The Award ceremony is scheduled for May 28th 3:30-5:00 pm.

Chair Cameron requested a volunteer to cover Information Technology Committee (ITC) meetings every other Wednesday afternoon beginning tomorrow. No volunteers.

2.   CTE Director's announcements.

CTE Director Harris-Barnett alerted the Committee that they can expect a heavy cluster of mini-grant applications in mid-May.

CTE Director Harris-Barnett recently learned that benefits must be paid for those receiving Instructional Improvement Program funds (which are opportunity funds) for summer salary. For this summer the 13.5% benefits will be paid on top of the $7500 awards but next year COT and the VPDUE will need to reevaluate the way summer salary fellowships are funded.

Currently there are three applicants for the summer Teaching, Learning, and Technology Conference (TLTC) held at UC Davis and the deadline is April 7. Funds are available for up to 10 attendees.

3.   Minutes

The minutes from February 12 were accepted with minor corrections.
The minutes from February 26 were accepted.

4.   Mini-Grants One mini-grant was denied.

5.   Faculty portal orientation (myucsc)

Lindsey Bass, project analyst for OPB presented material on the faculty portal content project and requested that committee members use the site, experiment with loading content and provide feedback directly to her on functionality. Members were encouraged to use the site for a minimum of one half-hour. Development of the portal is still in process. Committee members expressed concern regarding difficulty of logging in and suggested placing the resources on a site with less security. They also asked questions about OPB's maintenance strategy because of the need to avid broken links. Committee members also thought the site may be useful due to direct access to resources.

6.   ITCG Report: "Creating a UC Cyberinfastructure"

COT discussed the report submitted by the Information Technology Committee titled "Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure". The main issues that arose in the discussion related to academic freedom, administration/management/storage of faculty research data by IT rather than faculty. COT noted that a cost/benefit analysis was lacking from the report. They also found that the report was vague and overly generalized. They are concerned that application of proposal may also be equally general and thus not serve the needs of the individual UC campuses when implemented. Concerns were raised regarding the appropriateness of the infrastructure model used versus the data being transferred. The members agreed that quality infrastructure is the real need, and should be invested in.

There was general discussion and concern regarding the state of UCSC's electrical power and computer infrastructure.

Chair Cameron will draft a response to the report by April 14th. The Committee expressed interest in seeing the Senate Chair's response to systemwide to this report.

So attests,

Elisabeth Cameron, Chair
Committee on Teaching