

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
November 18, 2008
Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Room 129

Present: Elisabeth Cameron (Chair), Doris Ash, Tammi Blake (Staff advisor), Henry Burnett (Director of Media Services), Jessica Fiske Bailey (Guest), Ian Fullerman (SUA representative), June Gordon, Jim Phillips (Director of Instructional Technology), Hongyun Wang.

Absent with notice: Clare Max

Guest consultant: Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Bill Ladusaw

1. Chair's Announcements:
 - a. Chair asked if COT is interested in playing a role in the GE reform discussion as it has a direct effect on the quality of teaching. After discussion, there was agreement that COT could review some issues of reform as they arise. Chair Cameron will write to CEP Chair Padgett regarding COT involvement.
2. Minutes from the meeting of October 28 were approved.
3. Mini-grants: none.
4. Online Evaluations: Jim Phillips distributed handouts: The pilot program draft and FAQ (which are to be finalized by the end of the week). The pilot program covers 10 courses; 400 students have the opportunity to participate.
 - a. LMS systems: Sakai- has a module for online course evaluations. Moodle does not have one but an add-on can be purchased.
 - b. The SUA president is getting feedback on online evaluations and course evaluations in general from SUA. Ian will report back.
5. Excellence in Teaching awards: Ian reports that SUA will send representatives to classrooms promoting the Teaching in Excellence awards. The committee will invite SUA president Matthew Palm to the next COT meeting to consult him on a presentation to students.
6. VPDUE Bill Ladusaw was consulted on the relationship between COT and CTE. Before his arrival, the committee reviewed its charge for guidance in the discussion. According to the charge, COT's role in giving advice to CTE on the structure of the grants is limited. CTE does the administrative work for the teaching awards, grants and teaching symposium and COT works as an adjudicating body. COT began discussion about whether a more selective and larger award (through reallocation of resources) would work better to encourage good teaching.

The VPDUE presented a handout on parallel committees at other UCs which summarily stated that the charge of other COTs is to acknowledge outstanding teaching and advise departments on teaching.

The VPDUE discussed issues to be consulted on but not owned by this committee:

- UCSC's approach to individual faculty development with a focus on educational effectiveness.
- Whether an office of educational assessment could be a good model for CTE.
- Examples of teaching and learning centers at other universities were considered. The office at the University of Washington, for example, supports teaching in the following ways: Administration of teaching support programs, assessment and faculty development.
- The recruitment underway for a new Director of the CTE.
- Alternative ways of delivering CTE programs and services (or reducing them) and supporting the CTE.

Vice Provost Ladusaw noted that based on feedback from the COT, the current budget situation, and candidates' expectation of a higher salary than could be offered, he was suspending the recruitment for a Director of CTE. He assured CPT that the Instructional Improvement Grants and Teaching Awards are core programs that will continue to be supported by the Undergraduate Division, although some programs that are not as high a priority (e.g. symposia) may need to be postponed.

So Attests,