

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
October 27, 2009
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Rm 129

Present: M. Victoria Gonzalez-Pagani (Chair), Kate Edmunds, Dan Scripture, Hongyun Wang, Gordon Wells, Stephanie Casher (ASO)

Absent: Claire Max (with notice)

Guests: Jim Phillips, Jessica Fiske-Bailey

The minutes of September 29, 2009 were approved.

Changes to COT Bylaws

The committee approved two changes to the COT bylaws:

- Changing the name of the ‘Center for Teaching Excellence’ to the ‘Center for Teaching and Learning’.
- Inviting the Director of Learning Technologies to “sit with” the committee, since the Director of Media Services position has been eliminated.

Analyst Casher will forward the request for a conforming change to the COT bylaws to RJ&E for review.

Chair’s Announcements

The Chair informed the committee that we need volunteers to serve on two ITS advisory committees – the Advisory Committee for Information Technology (ACIT) and the Learning Technologies committee (which is focusing on Sakai implementation). Unfortunately, all committee members have scheduling conflicts with the ITS meeting times, so it was decided that Chair Gonzalez-Pagani will serve as the COT representative for the Learning Technologies committee (she sits on the committee in another capacity), and Jim Phillips, who attends ACIT anyway, will report back to the committee on any ACIT matters.

Campus Strategic Framework for Technology Planning

The committee had a preliminary discussion on the draft Campus Strategic Framework for Technology Planning, but since all members hadn’t done the reading, the group was unable to formulate a response. Chair Gonzalez-Pagani asked committee members to read the report and send her comments via email by the following Thursday.

Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force

The committee had a preliminary discussion on the Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force report, but since all members hadn’t done the reading, the group was unable to formulate a response. The committee will discuss the report at its November 10th meeting.

Committee Debrief on Sakai Training – Jim Phillips

Jim Phillips, Director of Learning Technologies, briefed the committee on the current status of the Sakai implementation and configuration. Since Web CT has to be phased out in July, there is

an urgent need to get Sakai up and running as soon as possible. ITS just concluded a four day training session which focused on program configuration. The Early Adopter program will begin January 2nd, and a larger group of Sakai adopters will come on board in the Spring. If all goes well, full implementation is expected in Fall 2010.

Instructional Improvement Grants (IIG)

Jessica Fiske-Bailey, Administrative Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, is in the process of redrafting the call for proposals for the Instructional Improvement Grant Program, and solicited committee feedback on the call. Some questions she presented for group discussion included:

1. Should Sakai and GE Reform be combined in the call?
2. How do we get Departments involved in submitting proposals, as opposed to just individual faculty?
3. What is the best way to leverage the small amount of funds available? How much should we be giving out, per award?

One committee member thought that maybe departments could be encouraged to apply for IIG funds to develop their Disciplinary Communication courses. Another department-centered idea for proposals was the creation of discipline-specific templates for Sakai. The committee agreed that collaborative projects could be weighted more heavily, and that we should encourage faculty to describe in their application how they intend to share the results with the larger campus community.

Jessica Fiske-Bailey will redraft the call for proposals, incorporating committee feedback, and present a new draft for further discussion at a future meeting.

Future Items

Committee members (and guests) suggested the following items as topics for discussion at a future meeting:

- The closing of computer labs across campus (due to budget cuts), and how cost-cutting measures are impacting teaching.
- Is there new research on pedagogy that we should be looking at that could help us restructure the way we teach here on campus?

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

So attests,

M. Victoria Gonzalez-Pagani, Chair
Committee on Teaching