

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
November 24, 2009
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Rm 129

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

Absent: Claire Max, Hongyun Wang (with notice)

Guest: Jim Phillips

The minutes of November 10, 2009 were approved.

Chair's Announcements

- The committee agreed to add an additional COT meeting on Tuesday, December 8th, to wrap up any outstanding business.
- The committee agreed to co-sponsor the winter workshop "Making Sense of Instructor Evaluations" with the EEO/AA office and the Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs.

Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force

The committee continued discussion on the Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force report. (see minutes from 11/10). Chair Gonzalez-Pagani will incorporate committee feedback into a formal response, and circulate the final draft to the committee via email.

Joint Senate-Administration EAP Task Force Report

The committee discussed the EAP Task Force Report. Most of the discussion centered around the advisability of eliminating Study Center Directors from EAP programs. The committee believes that faculty play an important role in ensuring the *quality* of instruction, and if they are removed, how will EAP address the issue of quality control? Some members also felt that the report underestimates the range of activities and duties that Study Center Directors have, and how integral on-site oversight is to the success of the program. While utilizing technology to provide a "virtual presence" may be an acceptable solution for *some* functions, care needs to be taken to safeguard and maintain the quality of the undergraduate experience abroad.

The committee strongly disagreed with the idea of deploying faculty on sabbatical abroad to "watch over" Study Centers. They felt this was an inappropriate encroachment upon the faculty member's obligation to conduct research, and could open the door for problematic liability issues, in case something did go wrong at the Study Center site.

The committee also discussed if campus departments could handle the additional responsibilities of course articulation (which is currently done at UOEAP, and takes up a significant portion of the budget).

Report on Remote and Online Instruction and Residency

Discussion of this item was tabled until the next meeting, due to a lack of time.

Online Instructor Evaluations

Jim Phillips, Director of Learning Technologies, gave a brief presentation on the current status of the Online Instructor Evaluations pilot, and the pros and cons of moving evaluations online that arose in previous years. Since Sakai has a component that can handle online evaluations, and the current scantron process is cumbersome and inefficient, COT needs to look at transitioning to an online model.

In order to prepare a report for the Senate on this issue, COT plans to take the following steps:

- Invite former COT Chair Elisabeth Cameron to a future COT meeting to brief the current committee on the major objections she fielded when the 2008-09 COT tried to move forward with online instructor evaluations.
- Poll individual departments on their current evaluation procedures.
- Explore the capabilities of Sakai to disaggregate results for different purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

So attests,

M. Victoria Gonzalez-Pagani, Chair
Committee on Teaching