Committee on Teaching (COT)
MINUTES
October 29, 2013, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m., Kerr Hall Room 129

Present: Charlie McDowell, *Chair*, Maria-Elena Diaz, Matthew McCarthy, Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Jim Phillips, *sits with*, Michael Tassio (ASO Staff)

Absent: Michael Chemers, Annapurna Pandey (NSTF)

Announcements
The Advisory Committee for Information Technology (ACIT) has requested a representative from COT for 2013-14. The ACIT reviews, evaluates, and recommends strategies to support and advance campus IT priorities. COT agreed to identify a member to serve.

The Minutes of October 15, 2013 were approved as written.

The EVC's Strategic Planning Task Initiative was described. In the initial phase pairs of faculty and staff will conduct stakeholder meetings to address a set of question (problems facing UCSC; or, UCSC's strengths) and feed this information into the creation of a two page "mission statement".

There was a brief discussion about what can be done about the response rates for on line instructor evaluation. There is a perception that it is not just disgruntled students respond, but also the best students, it is the mid-range students who do not participate. There needs to me some data run to understand this and COT will take up the matter at a future meeting.

COT's Active Agenda for 2013-14
After identifying items of interest to review in 2013-14 at its first meeting, they began discussion to isolate the most important items, and develop plans for proceeding with its active agenda.

Develop funding for a Center for Teaching and Learning - Chair McDowell will meet with VPAA Lee.
Querying faculty about teaching support - including their experience with Ecommons, and the physical setup in classrooms, access

Quarterly campus-wide discussion on pedagogy - Provide guidance to faculty interested in flipped courses

The committee added another topic about support for writing instruction. Since TA's are no longer able to provide this, and are just grading for content, it is not clear where the writing support is on campus, since it is spread through the colleges, ARC, and academic divisions.

Chair McDowell reported on a discussion at the Senate Executive committee about plagiarism software, especially the potential contract with Turn-it-in. Campus wants it, but the UC wasn't able to negotiate a system wide contract. Some campuses still pay for this service but it is

expensive. Unclear on what quote for UCSC was, but it was considered too high. Long Site, a competitor, will have software online soon that might compete with Turn-it-in; either it will bring down the cost, or may be a viable alternative. COT discussed this as a possible forum topic..

Director Philips described the new accessibility policy for electronic materials. Campuses now have a mandate that instructional materials have to be accessible. A huge challenge is video since under new policy it must be captioned. At some point, faculty will have to confront the reality of producing accessible materials.

COT recommended that LTC provide a quarterly demo on teaching technologies and agreed to collaborate with Director Phillips and the LTC for a brown bag lunch talk in Fall. This will be a small event. A first topic could be on evaluation forms. It would be good to hear from program directors about how to phrase questions and discuss best practices. If held during finals week, it would be present in the minds of faculty.

Planning for the next COT Sponsored Campuswide Discussion on Pedagogy
Last year COT co-sponsored three campuswide discussions on online education, technology, and pedagogy. Members began planning for this year's COT event(s).

Forum Topic Ideas
- Support for writing at UCSC; student preparedness
- Managing Plagiarism; software options
- Active lecturing across the disciplines- the previous discussions about MOOCs raised questions about how to lecture in a way that is more valuable than a recorded video. "Is your class more interesting than a MOOC?" "Are you more interesting than a MOOC?" "Am I better than a MOOC?" These are topics more interesting for faculty who teach large classes.
- What is the evolution of the textbook? Are MOOCs just a new format for textbooks? In some disciplines, like engineering, the threat from MOOCs is placed on publishers and not faculty. It allows for a richness of resources that can be integrated into course. How can we use technology to increase faculty/student interaction; create more 1-on-1, not less; if technology can facilitate this, it is worth exploring.

COT discussed a format of lightening shorts / flash talks that limit presentations to 10-20 slides and 6 minutes. The committee could conduct a call for submissions of presentations that should go out soon.

Review of the UCSC International Recruitment Assessment Draft Report
COT reviewed the UCSC International Recruitment Assessment Draft Report. The committee was favorably disposed to increased activity to recruit and enroll international students, but is

concerned with the report's tone regarding Academic Senate involvement. COT noted that led by the Committees on International Education (CIE) and Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA), in 2012-13 the Senate aggressively pursued the issue of international student recruitment and admissions. Those efforts to report on and modify procedures spurred the campus towards the goal of increased international enrollments. Indeed, the results of those efforts are quite tangible—a marked increase in international enrollments. The tone of the report and the suggestion that further Senate involvement would be "counterproductive" is incompatible with last year's successes. In an effort to move the campus further towards its goal, the committee will recommend the administration to carefully consider the important role the Senate will play.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.