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Committee on Teaching (COT)
MINUTES
January 22, 2013, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Kerr Hall 129

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Present: Charlie McDowell, *Chair*, Michael Chemers, Deborah Gould, Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Martin Weissman, Nandini Bhattacharya (NSTF), Noelle Lehnhard (GSA)

Absent with notice: Jim Phillips, *sits with*, Director of Learning Technologies, Gabi Cruz (SUA)

Consent Agenda
The meeting minutes of January 8, 2013, were approved.

Chair Updates
Chair McDowell informed COT that the Senate Executive Committee recently met with the Chancellor's Advisory Board and much of the meeting was spent discussing online education and massive open online courses (MOOCs). Online education, generally, has clearly become an issue that is on the minds of divisional deans and campus administrators. Further, faculty should soon expect to see a memo from the CP/EVC asking for input on UCSC joining other elite universities who offer courses on Coursera, a for-profit educational technology company. UCSC is currently in the process of getting accreditation from the Association of American Universities (AAU), which will permit UCSC to join Coursera.

Chair McDowell asked the Chancellor for his thoughts regarding using Coursera courses in a way that is similar to how some faculty use textbooks; for example, a faculty member might assign a Coursera course to students enrolled in his or her course. The Chancellor did not state immediate objections.

A member raised a concern that as the UC moves to online course providers, such as Coursera, there is a possibility that the rich diversity of course offerings at individual UCs will be reduced by one UC, for instance, offering a Psychology course that students from any campus can take. Further, it is not clear to members of COT of how campuses would collect tuition funds if students affiliated with one campus take online courses offered by other campuses.

Another member strongly recommended that the potential agreement with Coursera be viewed in the broader context of UCSC's strategic plan for online education. UCSC administration, the member continued, needs to make it clear that the agreement with Coursera is consistent with their vision for education at UCSC. Taken out of context, there is a concern that UCSC is moving forward with a plan for online education that has not been vetted by faculty. Further, there was disagreement among committee members of whether administration or COT should be charged with developing a strategic academic plan for online education.

Chair McDowell stated positive consequences that UCSC may gain from the Coursera agreement: joining an elite group of universities affiliated with Coursera; and, the opportunity for faculty to work with Coursera course designers.

Members agreed to return to the topic of Coursera when they are asked by the EVC to review the agreement. Further, members will use the review as an opportunity to consult with the EVC on the administration's vision for online education at UCSC.

On the topic of UC online education, a member stated a concern that as online courses are created and successfully offered through UC online, departments that are underfunded will gradually require their students to take online versions of some of their courses. In the end, students might lose the face to face instruction that they currently receive.

Lastly, Chair McDowell announced that the CA Governor's budget proposal was recently released and it includes 10 million for online education in the UC. It is not yet clear how these funds, if they become available, will be spent. Additionally, there is a modest increase of 5% in funds for the UC.

Spring Quarter Forum on Online Education
Members developed the following questions to be considered for the spring forum:
- How does online education fit into the pedagogical philosophies and strategic plan for UCSC? Is there a danger that efficiency will overwhelm pedagogical need?
- Will there be a reduction in class offerings for students who want to take classes in person? Related, how are financial considerations impeding faculty desire to offer in person or online courses?
- How will online courses be assessed, and who will determine the measures for success?
- How does a changing notion of what qualifies as a UCSC education negatively impact departments that do not pursue using online educational technologies?
- Will UCSC's venture into online education pose an existential threat to in-person teaching?
- For enrolled students, who will pay for online course fees or subscriptions to online course providers?
- How does the labor of a Teaching Assistant change if they become online assistants?
- How will UC credits transfer for UC students who take online courses from other UCs?

Center for Teaching and Learning Vision Statement (continued)
Due to a lack of time, members agreed to discuss this item at their next meeting.

Excellence in Teaching Nomination Process

Members discussed the Excellence in Teaching Nomination process, which was revised by the COT membership in 2011-12. Members were not supportive of last year's changes and made several revisions to the process. COT will create a short list of faculty, no more than 15-20, who have been nominated by students. COT will request statements of teaching philosophy from the faculty who have been short listed. Further, COT will request letters of support from the Department Chairs of short listed faculty.

Members recommended that the Senate Analyst for COT maintain a catalog of faculty who have been short-listed for the award in recent years.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.