

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING
Report to the Academic Senate on May 18, 2016

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning

We are pleased to report that the plans for The Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning are moving forward. We will be interviewing candidates for the faculty director position before the end the quarter, with an anticipated start date of July 1st. Information will be forthcoming on the open candidate presentations.

Committee on Teaching - website - teaching.sites.ucsc.edu

Please visit the COT website. It contains new information, videos, and resources, including Research Spotlights by the Chancellor's Graduate Intern, Mecaila Smith capturing some of the findings from recent research studies regarding teaching and learning. The Excellence in Teaching award recipient interviews cover how to design effective courses, hints and ideas for effective teaching, and ways to connect with students to enhance their learning. Other resources include the National Academy of Sciences report on *How People Learn*, ways to incorporate active learning, technology and peer editing into your courses, and creating better syllabi and tools for assessing student learning.

Excellence in Teaching Awards

This year, for the first time, COT collected student nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Awards from three quarters, starting with Spring 2015. This resulted in a record number of student nominations for their instructors (a total of 619). We see this as evidence of the strong commitment by UCSC faculty and instructors to their students and their teaching. We are reviewing the nominations and will be pleased to announce the recipients of the award by the end of the month.

Canvas

The Senate Executive Committee and the Committee on Information Technology, in consultation with the Committee on Teaching, have recommended to the EVC Galloway that the campus move from the eCommons Learning Management System to the Canvas platform.

Course Evaluation Policy

The COT has a new policy role on campus. As a Senate Committee, we will have oversight over campus policy regarding teaching evaluations. We have been reading research on this issue, and collecting information about different types of course evaluations that go beyond student evaluations of instruction. Developing the policy will take time and will continue into next year. In the meantime, the campus will be moving to a new online student course evaluation system, as the current system is unreliable. The Committee on Teaching is working with campus administration, other committees, and the Online Course Evaluation Steering Committee to find a system that will go beyond summative evaluation used mainly for personnel actions to a system that can facilitate instructor pedagogy. We would like the new online student course evaluation system to provide instructors with analytical and timely mid-quarter data so that an instructor can make changes before the end of the term to facilitate student learning, and to allow instructors

to learn from the data collected.

Respectfully submitted;
COMMITTEE ON TEACHING

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May 12, 2016