University Council on Teaching

Minutes 11-4-14

Present: Jeff Cohen (Chair), John Rakestraw, Tom Groome, Jackie Lerner, Pat DeLeeuw, Danielle Taghian, Katie McInnis-Dittrich, Kathy Bailey, Audrey Friedman

The meeting began with introductions of new and returning members. The minutes from the October 2014 meeting were approved.

**1. John Rakestraw, the newly appointed Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, detailed the progress and future programing initiatives for CTE. They are summarized below:**

***Long-Term Ideas***

* “Masters Teachers Program” – Someone is given an incentive to spend a semester+ in the CTE. This would be a way of spreading the culture of the CTE across the campus.
* Post-Doctoral Program – Invite recent PhD’s to spend sometime in the CTE. John and his colleagues implemented a similar program at Georgetown. NOTE: There would be salary costs associated with this.
* Fellowship for Liberal Arts Faculty on Sabbatical—Inviting liberal arts faculty who are currently on Sabbatical to spend some time in the CTE.

**Reactions- questions to John from UCT:**

* Questions regarding how the workload would change for anyone who enters the “Masters Teachers Program.” What would their role be? In order for this to work, this person would need to be fully integrated into the CTE.
  + Mentor Program
  + Workshop Program
    - Ex. Engaging Students in large classes
* Who would be invited to the “Masters Teachers Program” and how many? Having diversity of Mentors would be ideal for the CTE.
  + One from Discipline
  + One from the professional school (e.g. Nursing, CSOM etc.).
* Finding the right mix of teaching styles will be important in making the “Masters Teacher Program” work as it is intended to work.
* How do we learn from “Masters Teachers”
  + Example: How do we take risks and move beyond PowerPoint? Does this inhibit learning?
  + Masters of Teachers would be a great source to develop better ways to use tools, such as PowerPoint. This will help Professors avoid going stale. How do you foster more meaningful discussions in class? Having another role model would be a great way to think creatively in the approach to teaching.
* KEY QUESTION: Would people actually come to the Masters of Teachers Program?
  + Deans get involved and mandate participation in this program.
  + There is a concern that professors would be reluctant to receive feedback on their approach to teaching. There is a “threatening” aspect to receiving feedback. How do you reframe teaching as itself experimental?
  + Can we compensate Professors for participating in the Masters of Teaching Program and CTE
* Potential Workshop Topics
  + Engaging Students in Large Classes
  + Engaging International Students
* Revising the Teaching and Advising Grants
  + How to increase the numbers of applications that we get to these different programs
* What can UCT do from a pragmatic standpoint to help move the CTE forward?
  + Formal engagement of the Departments. Requesting feedback for what each Departments would potentially be interested in in terms of engaging with CTE.
  + Meetings with the Directors of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) and Department Chairs
  + Next Meeting: Help identify 3+ project that the UCT could own and have a discussion about narrowing down to 1 project.

**2. Report on things that are already in progress with the CTE**

* Bringing the Concepts of CTE to the Departments: Attending faculty meetings with Lynch School, Social Work and Nursing school to schedule workshops
  + Can we get 20-30 minutes of a Department meeting to introduce the value that the CTE offers (“Teaser”, “Speed Advising”)
* Formal Mentoring Programming
  + Exploring the idea of hosting a monthly lunch as the CTE
* Teaching Circles
  + No forming programming: 4-6 faculty agree to meet over lunch on a monthly basis to discuss their approaches to teaching.
* Teaching Development Plan
  + Having senior faculty do peer reviews and consultation with other faculty members

**3. Teaching Awards Discussion**

* Where/when is the best time to give the awards to the professors?
  + A&S?
* How to pick award winners
  + Combination of Student/Faculty interaction
* How to pick a University-wide winner?
  + This would depend on funding

December Meeting: Wed. December 3’rd 12:45-2 PM Waul House-agenda items are:

a) Katie Dalton of the Women’s Center to discuss their initiatives and what we can do to help

b) Discussing some big picture agenda items of CTE so we can narrow down on a specific action item

c) Teaching awards-University-wide and/or individual school-wide

\*\* Meeting Minutes recorded by Jake Gaffey, GA to Prof. Jeff Cohen\*\*\*