University Council on Teaching
Meeting of Tuesday 4th October, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Commenced: 3:00 PM
What is the CTE and how can the UCT continue to support the CTE?

- UCT wants to get an idea of Provost, David Quigley’s vision for the UCT.
  - David would like to meet with the committee.
- Kristin Heyer is a new member of the UCT.
- The role of the CTE is explained.
  - The CTE should be a home for teaching faculty, where they can be supported, challenged and engaged
  - The CTE facilitates opportunities for faculty to come together to solve problems in teaching
- Categories of CTE forums:
  - One on one
  - Small Group
  - Institution Wide Celebrations
  - Intensive Faculty Development such as 3-day course design institutes and diversity institutes
- The roles of the UCT and the CTE overlap but the UCT can speak for the faculty and the CTE cannot.
- What is the role of the UCT?
- Should the UCT, with the help of the CTE on developing indicators, give recognition for excellence in teaching in the form of an award?
- The CTE would love to celebrate an award but cannot be involved in the selection process.
- Teacher recognition through awards has dwindled over the years.
- Defining and rewarding good teaching is very important and difficult to do.
- Conversations need to be had on developing a process for selecting and nominating members of teaching faculty for awards.
  - The value of the process must be greater than the value of the award itself.
- The UCT, together with the CTE, will be instrumental in developing this process.
- The award will have the support of the Office of the Vice Provost.
- The CTE has been active in attracting more foot traffic.
- Examples of methods in use:
  - Back to School workshops
  - Informal reports
  - New faculty lunches
- A system is being sketched by the CTE to see if efforts to increase foot traffic are being focused in the right direction. It will be in the form of a survey.
- Foot traffic in the CTE has been very diverse and “frequent flyers” have given great reviews but these sentiments need to be more widespread common thought.
What can the UCT do to help the CTE? “Inform each other’s work”
- The UCT can be a source of information on the teaching faculty’s concerns.
- The UCT can be an advocate for the faculty where the CTE does not have the flexibility.

Suggestion: The CTE send out a survey inquiring about issues plaguing the teaching faculty. The issues would serve as potential projects for the UCT to be tasked with.

The UCT should become the forum where the teaching faculty first thinks to go to with their issues.

Suggestion: An email be sent out to notify teaching faculty of their representatives

Can Undergraduate directors meet with the UCT?

Suggestion: The CTE and the UCT have a combined survey useful for both of their objectives. The survey should come from David’s office.

How useful are student evaluations?

Evaluations should go hand in hand with a reward system. Too much weight is currently given to student evaluations in assessing excellence in teaching.

Suggested other tasks the UCT can make their own:
- Creating more small scale resources for teachers to develop their skills. Travel grants for teacher development workshops is an example.

The CTE wants to collaborate with the professional schools to celebrate work that has already been done prior to its advent and, to make plans for the future.

The UCT can be a portal for collaborations between faculty and the CTE and can also help the CTE in servicing faculty needs.

UCT Task force assembled to:
- Introduce the UCT to the teaching faculty via email
- Start drawing up a faculty teaching award and nomination process.

Adjourned: 4:00 PM

Next meeting to be held in the CTE’s Innovation lab 1:30-2:45 PM Tuesday, November 15th.

Attendees: Jeff Cohen, Katie McInnis-Diffrich, Audrey Friedman, Jackie Lerner, Kristin Heyer, Stacy Grooters, Kathy Bailey, John Rakestraw, Danielle Taghian, Billy Soo, Courtney Vigo