

Minutes of the University Council on Teaching
 March 3, 2006
 Bourneuf House, 10:30 AM

Present: Chris Hepburn (chair), Sue Barrett, Larry Ludlow, William Petri, Fred Yen, Jim Gips, Mary Joe Hughes

Guest: Rita Owens, Associate Academic VP for Technology

1. Minutes of last meeting approved

2. Update and discussion of technology issues led by Rita Owens

- Course evaluations
 - The new online system is being pilot tested this semester.
 - There is wide-spread concern about student response rates (they are expected to go down) and Chris and Jim are participating in those discussions. These talks are still considering the merits and disadvantages of various reward and “stick” approaches.
 - At present, 45% of all courses have chosen the online version this spring.
 - Immediate advice is sought on how to evaluate the success (failure?) of the online versus paper approaches, i.e. what statistics should be gathered, what comparisons should be made, what are the criteria for success or failure?
- Classroom Technology
 - The basic systems around campus have all been installed—except for Carney.
 - Fulton will be looked at again to see what new models of technology might be more appropriate since Fulton was upgraded first
 - Interest in video conferencing has increased and services are available in Hovey House—see Media Technology Services for equipment and BOC for reservations.
- AnDover Weekends
 - Four sessions have been held with 60 attendees of whom 15 have been new faculty. Faculty response has been positive.
- E-teaching
 - WebCT use has grown from a few percent of all courses five years ago to 50% now (12,400 students exposed to this technology)
 - Numerous TAM recipients have been helped on the completion of their projects and TAM proposals have been strengthened before their submission. Workshops, training, instructional design, WebCT construction, and student help have been available for faculty technology projects.
 - The Teaching with New Media Award nominations rose from 30 last year to 200 at present.
 - E-teaching Day on May 17th will feature Marc Prensky (www.marcprensky.com)
 - Faculty summer workshops will be offered again and the announcement will be soon.
 - The University received a Davis Grant that will go for the Honors Program

3. Update and discussion by Sue Barrett, Director Connors Family Learning Center

- Proposal for a University Testing Center

- Reviewed rationale for the center—needs of students and concerns of faculty.
- Proposal addresses space, full-time administrator, procedures and budget.
- It includes the possibility of a collaboration of resources with the Lynch School of Education Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation, and Educational Policy (CSTEPP). The center director, Joe Pedulla, will be contacted by Sue for a feasibility discussion.

4. Discussion of February 17, 2006 email reply from AVP Bert Garza to UCT Chair Hepburn re: issues to be raised

- AVP Garza raised general questions about the need for peer evaluation of teaching and how results from the new online evaluation system will be distributed.
 - With respect to peer evaluations there was much description of varying practice across the university. No recommendations were offered for what to do next on this.
 - With respect to the online results, it was recommended that the results be distributed exactly as they presently are.
 - It was recommended that Larry Ludlow contact Louise Lonabacher in order discuss analysis issues such as the comparison of online versus paper response rates, the creation of longitudinal files for faculty analysis, and university-generated and sponsored research analyses that go beyond simple reporting of frequencies (e.g. is there a negative correlation between class size and “excellent” ratings?)

5. The TAM/TAME review group of Yen, Petri, and Ludlow will meet March 24th, 10:30-12 in Gasson 105 to make their decisions about the awards (4 TAME and 14 TAMs requesting well beyond the \$150,000 allocation). TAM/TAME Chair Ludlow noted that the next person to miss a meeting would suffer the same fate he did—appointed to be the next special-project chair and secretary!

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Ludlow