

Minutes of the University Council on Teaching

Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

10:00-11:30 a.m., Bourneuf House

Present: Chris Hepburn (Chair), Sue Barrett, Mary Joe Hughes, Bill Petri, Fred Yen

Guest: Associate Academic Vice President, Rita Owens

Associate Vice President Owens gave an update on academic technology.

Classrooms. Over summer '07, the 25 classrooms that remain without basic technology systems, including those in Carney, will be outfitted (with DVD players, fixed projectors, and laptop connections). Classrooms, including those on the law campus, will be regularly updated and any new classrooms will have basic systems from the beginning. Smart boards will be coming to some classrooms in the future. One million dollars a year has been available for classroom technology for each of the last five years; after this year, there will be only one million every other year.

Academic Technology funds, which have previously been held by ATAB (Academic Technology Advisory Board), and had to be requested each year, will now, for the most part, be decentralized and each school will control its own funds. However, \$300,000 of the \$800,000 budget will be put on reserve for people who need technology to support an innovative project. They will apply in the same manner that people now apply for TAM grants.

iTunes university. BC's status as an itunes university means that it has a special relationship with Apple. One of the immediate results is that it makes it very easy to create pod casts.

Other plans: In response to the limitations of webct, IDES wants to develop a suite of products (wiki, podcast, blog, e.g.) to support teaching. Under the course systems project, all faculty will be easily able to make a syllabus available for each course. Even if it is a syllabus from a previous semester, it should be there in time for students to see if before the register for classes.

## Discussion of Evaluations

After discussing the feedback from faculty focus groups, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the evaluation model with check boxes. The questions and format most closely reflect what faculty requested in order to improve the evaluations.

As to releasing data from evaluations to students, the committee would like to see data on the fairness of evaluations to all groups (AHANA faculty, women faculty and other groups). In general, the group recommends only voluntary release of Part A to students at the current time.

TAMs

There were many more requests than could be filled this year, more applications than in any previous year.

Next meeting: May 11, 11:30 to 1:00.