

Minutes of the University Council on Teaching – Draft 1  
Wednesday, February 24th, 2010  
Akua Sarr Recorder

Present: Sue Barrett, Patricia DeLeeuw, Colleen Griffith, Chris Hepburn (Chair), Rita Olivieri, Ginny Reinburg, Akua Sarr, Pete Wilson

The minutes of the January meeting were accepted.

#### A. Some Goals of Committee for 2012-2011

1. Evaluation of Advising by Students (student presentation at March meeting)
2. Write Report on Interdisciplinary Teaching at BC
  - a. Why is it desirable?
  - b. What are the problems?
  - c. What are suggestions?
3. Invite Arthur Madigan (New Core Director) to future meeting to discuss Core and AP meeting Core requirements

#### Discussion of Interdisciplinary Teaching at BC – to be included in Committee Report

1. Why is Interdisciplinary Teaching Desirable?
  - a. Students will be living in an interdisciplinary world
  - b. Interdisciplinary teaching generates creativity in faculty & students – new areas of thought created, new research initiatives,
  - c. Could allow us to re-think the Core
  - d. Might consider ways to link double majors – suggested that we might research the most frequent double majors and consider courses in relation to those – given clear student interest
  - e. Collaborative publications, more emphasis on creative teaching methods
  - f. Good model for developing learning communities – ie. Portico in CSOM, or linked courses for freshman and/or seniors
2. Problems?
  - a. No incentives for faculty
  - b. How do we determine student credit hours?
  - c. Opportunity costs – ie. students not carrying another disciplinary course in core or major
  - d. Coordination costs – ie. longer prep for faculty
  - e. How do we determine teaching loads?
3. Solutions/Suggestions?

- a. Any interdisciplinary team taught course counts as 100% for any faculty teaching it. (Approved on a case by case basis)
- b. Interdisciplinary Freshman seminar attached to a Disciplinary Core course
- c. TAM grants to prep for course – separate TAM process to attract & brand program – make it competitive & possible 3 step process 1. Design; 2. Teach; 3. Lessons learned
- d. Consider integration w/Core after some successful models are developed
- e. Interdisciplinary Teaching Incentive Grant w/ criteria
- f. Research on double majors – how do they relate to interdisciplinary study?
- g. Encourage interdepartmental & cross-college teaching

How do we move forward? Suggested that some sort of faculty forum (1 or 2) be held in fall 2010 – #3 (below) seemed to have most support.

- 1. Faculty Forum (s) – How do scholars in your discipline view X?
- 2. Interdisciplinary Program Directors Meeting
- 3. Setting themes and bringing faculty together based on topic ie. Sustainability, Human Genome Project, Poverty, Technology, War & Peace
  - a. Model of interdisciplinary discussion & building relationships might stir up ideas about interdisciplinary course
- 4. Faculty w/ideas can contact UCT and have a forum for that group
- 5. Faculty that are already doing this sort of teaching and give them more incentive to continue