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