

University Council on Teaching

Minutes of meeting, March 8th, 2004

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12 noon by Chris Hepburn, chair. In attendance were: Ellen Winner, Judith Vessey, Bill Petri, Suzanne Barrett, Larry Ludlow, Mary Joe Hughes, Theresa Hammond, Assoc. Academic VP for Technology Rita Owens, and Professor Michael Connolly.

The first item of business was a discussion about renewing the Andover weekends. Michael Connolly spoke about the history of previous such weekends. Originally, these weekends existed to develop teaching skills. Later on, additional topics were added. Prof. Connolly mentioned that these weekends had a productive socializing affect our new faculty, and he thought they were very much worth doing again. When they were previously conducted, the Andover weekends were run under a subcommittee of the UCT. About 25 people, both junior and more senior, attended each weekend.

Prof. Connolly suggested that the university renew the Andover weekend program. A possible time to start such an endeavor would be late this spring. However, a number of questions remain. These questions include the length of the weekend, location, the mix of faculty, how faculty are chosen to participate, the size, the particular faculty that should attend (full or part-time, graduate students or only professors). It was generally agreed that the focus of any new weekends should be on teaching, and the use of technology to assist teaching. A general discussion followed about various ideas for implementation. The committee agreed to refer the issue to a subcommittee of Suzanne Barrett, Judith Vessey, Larry Ludlow, and Fred Yen. This subcommittee would meet with Michael Connolly to discuss details about implementing the new weekends.

Rita Owens then raised the possibility of an Academic Technology Seminar (ATS) summer workshop. She mentioned that it could be tied to the TAM/TAMES process. Apparently Rita Olivieri from the nursing school is creating a nursing class that is entirely on line. The idea behind this program would be to give a particular faculty member – like Professor Olivieri - five days of intensive instruction about the technology needed to support the project. A handout describing the idea is attached to these minutes.

Assoc. VP Owens then reported about the state of technology in classrooms and classroom upgrades. She reported that a \$2.5 million has been spent on upgrades. Some rooms will get a digital projector, DVD and VCR players, a network connection for a laptop computer, and speakers. This is a basic set-up on main campus. Other rooms will have equipment in closets. Such a room contains an electronic screen, the ability to dim the lights, and projection. These rooms are like the ones in Fulton, which are being updated as equipment wears out.

Next, Bill Petri reported on the progress of the subcommittee concerning the Freshman Seminar project. A proposal is being drafted, which Bill will circulate before the next meeting.

Next, the committee discussed formation of a subcommittee to deal with the TAM/TAME

grants. It was agreed that Chris Hepburn, Teresa Hammond, and Mary Joe Hughes would form the subcommittee. There was some discussion about the amount of time that should ordinarily pass between the receipt of grants by a single recipient. Among the issues were whether grants could be awarded in consecutive years for related projects, unrelated projects, or for extraordinary circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Yen