Committee on Teaching
Minutes for January 18, 2017
Zilber Hall 470, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Members Present: Evelyn Donate-Bartfield, Jake Carpenter, Cynthia Ellwood, Kristin Haglund, Shaun Longstreet (ex-officio), Daniel Meissner (Chair), Jane Sloan Peters, Jim Pokrywczynski, Susan Schneider, John Su (ex-officio)

Members Excused: Terence Ow, Lauriann Klockow

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 3:30.

Reflection
Susan Schneider

I. Minutes
The minutes from the December 7, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved without changes.

II. Announcements and Information
A. Due to his wife’s illness, Don Neumann has taken a leave from the Committee on Teaching. The Provost has appointed Lauriann Klockow to serve as his replacement on the committee for the remainder of this academic term.

B. Since John Su was attending President Lovell’s Annual Address and would miss the first half-hour of the meeting, discussion of the Teaching Enhancement Awards will be held after the presentations of the final two SETs.

C. John Su noted that several department chairs had inquired about reusing student letters of recommendation for faculty who are once again being considered by the committee for teaching awards. Dr. Su indicated that he and the committee chair had agreed that rather than request new letters, those written by students within the past two years could be included without prejudice in the current dossiers. Committee members approved this change.

III. Continuing Business
A. Presentation and Critique of the final SETs
   1. IDEA
      Susan Schneider provided a summary of the IDEA teaching assessment program, indicating that a positive aspect of this SET was the inclusion of global awareness questions. However, she was not convinced that it was worth the significant cost (~$46,000/year)

      Shaun Longstreet noted that the cost included both an assessment of student learning and teaching methods used in the classroom. The evaluation report provides
summary ratings, student progress master learning outcomes specified for each class, and feedback on use of effective pedagogy.

The Chair added that the IDEA assessment program adjusts for class size, student motivation, and student work habits. Questions can be customized. And the program includes an “instant feedback” tool that enables instructors to poll students at any time during the course. The program provides flexibility to fit different types of courses, and formative suggestions for enhance classroom learning through proven teaching methods.

The committee approved this program for further consideration.

2. SIR II
Jim Pokrywczynski reported on the strengths and shortcomings of the SIR II teaching assessment program. The program assesses eight dimensions from course organization to workload, course outcomes and student effort. The evaluation form consisted of ~40 questions, that Jim thought might be too many. He also voiced concerns about the rating scale with a mean above 4.0 on a scale to 5. Despite these concerns, he thought the program warranted further consideration.

The committee agreed.

3. This concluded the initial review of the nine SETs forwarded to the committee by OIRA. The following programs were approved for further consideration: IDEA, IOTA360, SEEQ, SQOI and MOCES.

4. The Chair announced that he will review these five programs and attempt to reduce the number for future deliberation to three before the next meeting.

B. Discussion of the Teaching Enhancement Award Applications.
John Su distributed tally sheets of committee member rankings of the nine proposals under consideration for the 2017-2018 Teaching Enhancement Award. The tallies indicated that two proposals clearly outranked the other four. After discussing the strengths and weakness of these two proposals, the committee voted to recommend one proposal to the Provost for acceptance.

After selecting the award recipient, the committee then discussed the merits and shortcomings of the remaining four proposals in order to provide constructive comments for possible resubmission in next year’s competition.

IV. New Business
A. Innovative Teaching
In the remaining few minutes, the issue of encouraging more innovative pedagogy in the proposals was broached. The committee decided to revisit this issue at a future meeting with the intention of revising next year’s “request for proposals” to encourage and focus on innovative teaching projects.
V. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next Meeting: February 8, 2017

Recorder: Dan Meissner