Committee on Teaching
Minutes for April 4, 2017
Zilber Hall 474, 3:30 to 5:05 pm

Members Present: Jake Carpenter, Cynthia Ellwood, Kristin Haglund, Laurianne Klockow,
Shaun Longstreet Daniel Meissner (Chair), Jane Sloan Peters, Susan Schneider, John Su

Members Excused: Evelyn Donate-Bartfield, Terence Ow, Jim Pokrywcynski

Invited Participants: Alix Riley, Crystal Lendved from OIRA

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 3:35.

Reflection
Cynthia Ellwood

I. Minutes
March 8, 2017 minutes approved without correction.

II. Announcements and Information
None

III. Business
A. Nomination ballots were distributed, marked and collected for the May election of a new Chair.

B. Alix Riley and Crystal Lendved updated the committee on their inquiry into the reliability of CampusLabs, the software provider for the IDEA teaching evaluation system. In earlier contracts with this company at Marquette, OIRA had not been entirely satisfied with its reliability. Alix noted that CampusLabs had lost data and had been slow in processing data. In order to determine if Marquette’s experience was unique or typical, Alix and Crystal contacted Loyola University officials about their experience with the company and the IDEA program. Alix reported that Loyola was quite satisfied with CampusLabs, and indicated that the company seemed to be improving over time.

Alix and Crystal reported that other universities that currently use IDEA are quite satisfied with the software provider and the program. They then responded to committee questions about faculty and administration training in the various components of the program, interpreting feedback, formative components and their use, the difficulty of shifting from MOCES to IDEA, contract terms with MOCES provider CampusEval, the annual cost of IDEA, and P&T considerations.

Although the IDEA program appears to be a clearly superior teaching assessment tool to MOCES, the cost – approximately $30,000 more per year – is a major concern. Before making a formal recommendation to the Academic Senate for such an expensive
program, the committee decided to devote the May meeting to a Skype presentation and Q&A with Jack Glover, a CampusLabs representative.

C. Alix and Crystal also provided a brief overview of a new color-coded teaching assessment report developed in response to Provost Dan Meyer’s charge. Faculty assessment scores would be compared to department and/or college averages, and highlighted in red if they fell below the mean and green if above. Committee members raised various concerns about such a system, including instructors in highly rated departments receiving red “warnings” when their assessments fell slightly below the department average but still above a MOCES rating of “good.”

IV. New Business
   None.

V. Adjournment
   The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Recorder
   Dan Meissner