Committee on Teaching
Annual Report to University Academic Senate
April 21, 2017

1. Committee Membership
   Jake Carpenter          Law School
   Evelyn Donate-Bartfield School of Dentistry
   Cynthia Ellwood        College of Education
   Kristin Haglund        College of Nursing
   Lauriann Klockow       College of Health Sciences (Replaced Don Neumann)
   Shaun Longstreen (Ex-officio) Center for Teaching and Learning
   Daniel Meissner (Chair) Klinger College of Arts and Sciences
   Donald Neumann         College of Health Sciences (Personal Leave)
   Terence Ow             College of Business Administration
   Jane Sloan Peters      Graduate Student Organization
   James Pokrywczyiski    Diedtrich College of Communications
   Susan Schneider        Opus College of Engineering
   John Su (Ex-officio)   Office of the Provost

Although MSUG assigned Cameron Vrana as Student Government representative to the committee, he did not attend any of the meetings, nor did he respond to numerous messages asking him to do so. Repeated requests to the MSUG president(s) for appointment of a new representative proved equally fruitless.

2. Committee Meetings
   - The committee met for monthly meetings on the following dates: September 14, October 12, November 16, December 7, January 18, February 8, March 8, April 4, and May 3 (upcoming)

3. Senate Charges to the Committee
   - The committee was charged with evaluating the proposals for the Way Klinger Teaching Enhancement Award and recommending to the Provost a winning proposal.
   - The committee was charged with evaluating the dossiers of the finalists for the Teaching Excellence Award and recommending to the Provost who should receive the award.
   - The committee was charged with examining possible replacements for the current MOCES teaching evaluation system.

4. Responses to Charges
   - The committee reviewed all proposals submitted for the Way Klinger Teaching Enhancement Award, and provided a recommendation to the Provost based on the committee’s deliberations and final rankings of the dossiers
The committee reviewed the dossiers of all of finalists for the Teaching Excellence Award, and provided a recommendation to the Provost based on the committee’s deliberations and final rankings of the dossiers.

5. **Committee Work and Accomplishments**

A. **Evaluation of current MOCES questions and procedures**

The central task for the committee this year was the evaluation of various teaching assessment programs in order to determine if one might prove more appropriate than the current MOCES system. In response to the committee’s request, Alix Riley and Crystal Lendved of OIRA assembled documents on nine different assessment programs. Explanatory documentation for these nine programs consisted of 73 separate files totaling 1,143 pages of material. The chair assigned two members to evaluate each program, and the committee discussed two programs at each of the meetings for November, December, January and February. Shaun Longstreet arranged a video conference presentation for one of the more promising programs, and Alix Riley and Crystal Lendved attended several meetings to provide additional information.

The committee concluded that most of these programs offered no clear advantage over the MOCES assessment tool currently used by the university. One, however, was considered strong enough for further consideration. For the final meeting of the year on May 3, Shaun Longstreet has arranged a video conference call with a representative of CampusLabs, the software provider for the teaching assessment program, IDEA, who will give a presentation on the various components of this evaluation tool. If time allows, the committee will deliberate and vote on whether or not to recommend to the Academic Senate the replacement of MOCES by IDEA. If time does not allow, the committee will make a decision on this recommendation during its first meeting in September 2017.

B. **Discussion of Way Klingler Teaching Enhancement Award Process**

The committee discussed last year’s award Teaching Enhancement Award process and examined some changes that might improve (1) the number of proposals submitted; (2) creativity and innovation in the proposals; and (3) the assessment process for submitted proposals. These changes include updating the evaluation rubric, discussion of factors that might be affecting the number and diversity of proposals being submitted, and whether to include a special focus in the call for proposals next year. Amid concerns that including a special focus might limit the number of proposals submitted, it was decided that the committee would again revisit this issue at an early meeting next year.

C. **Suggestion for In-Class Assessment**

Alix Riley presented statistics to the committee that indicated student response rates for MOCES teaching evaluation increased from 64 percent to 90 percent when instructors set aside classroom time to complete the assessment form. Consequently, the committee voted to send a message to the Provost for circulation to all faculty that strongly recommended providing class time for students to complete MOCES evaluations during the spring assessment period.

D. **The Baylor Cherry Award**

The committee discussed nominating a faculty member for the Baylor Cherry Award, a national award for teaching excellence. After some preliminary consideration of linking
an annual nomination to the Teaching Excellence Award dossiers, the committee decided not to nominate a candidate this year, but to put discussion of the selection process and nomination criteria on a future agenda.

6. Unfinished Business
The tremendous amount of work involved in evaluating the various teaching assessment programs dominated the committee’s time this academic year. Consequently, only the note on classroom assessment time among those items mentioned in Section 5 was actually completed. The other issues will be considered during the Fall 2017 committee meetings. The committee should be free to undertake additional charges from the Academic Senate, or issues raised by committee members during Spring, 2018. However, the item receiving the committee’s highest priority is the final assessment of the IDEA program as a replacement for MOCES. A motion to that effect should be sent to the Academic Senate for consideration in the Fall.

7. Committee Recommendations for Unfinished and Future Business
A. As noted above, the primary concern of the committee is forwarding to the Academic Senate the conclusions of its extensive investigation into a possible replacement for MOCES.

B. The committee should deliberate on ways to improve the number of applications for the Teaching Enhancement Award, with an aim to improving creativity and innovation in teaching. The committee should finalize selection criteria next year, and begin submitting an annual nomination for this award.

C. The current chair will suggest to the committee that they continue to examine ways to recognize – and improve – the quality of teaching at Marquette. As the university climate shifts toward a greater emphasis on research and publication, faculty may feel pressured to reassess the time invested in teaching. Recognizing that instructors must devote energy and effort in order to hone students’ critical reading, writing and analytical skills, and even more time to probe questions that spark a truly transformational education, the committee should investigate additional means to promote and defend teaching excellence. Moreover, the committee should take a concerted stand on behalf of instructors who invest extra effort in guiding and mentoring students through personal conferences; correcting (rather than merely grading) assignments and exams; using various forms of teaching (powerpoints, images, lectures, discussions, community service, workshops, labs) and assessment (reflection papers, essay exams, participation, quizzes, lab reports); and challenging/inspiring students to personal growth through consideration of complex ethical issues. Beyond recognizing excellence in the classroom, the committee should play a more active role in ensuring that teaching effectiveness not be undervalued nor allowed to decline, and that student aspirations for a transformational education not be shortchanged.

D. The committee will continue to fulfill its annual charge of managing the selection process for the Way Klinger Interdisciplinary Teaching Award and the Faculty Awards for Teaching Excellence.