Improvement of Learning Committee - Minutes
Tuesday, February 03, 2009
4:00 p.m. – 1510 Ullsvik Center

Attendance:

Keith Thompson       Carol Sue Butts       Amy Parsons       Qi Yang
Nader Safari-Shad    Kevin Haertzen      Matt Roberts
David Schuler        George Smith        Rami Reddy
Ahyoung Kim          Adam Stanley         Tom Lo Guidice

Kevin Haertzen chaired the meeting and Matt Roberts took minutes.

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:06.

2. The minutes from January 20, 2009 were approved as written.

3. Announcements:

   a. Kappa Delta Phi has decided to postpone their teaching awards.

   b. Tom Lo Guidice announced that several Teaching Excellence Center (TEC) programs have started. In particular, the “Poetry in Motion” book club has room for more participants. He asked committee members for help in promoting TEC events, particularly those that are targeted for newer faculty. He also mentioned resources available through the TEC including “Snagit” (software for creating video screen captures), clickers (100 count), and support for creating podcasts for “Apple University.” Question was raised concerning the French film series, and Tom explained that the TEC is providing matching funds for a French film festival. There were also questions about “Pioneers in SoTL”—UWP Faculty Projects.” Tom explained that a summary of past SoTL projects will be distributed in booklet form to department heads and other University administrators. Electronic copies will be available for all. The Caught in the Middle book club was also discussed.

   c. Carol Sue had two announcements: (1) The Chinese New Year Spring Festival will be February 8 and (2) The Laramie Project, a play regarding the murder of Matthew Shepard, opens in two weeks.

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1 SoTL = Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
4. New Business

a. The Underkofler Teaching award subcommittee (Matt Roberts, Amy Parsons, Rami Reddy) reported their recommendations. Three nomination packages were submitted from Theron Parsons, Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, and Jeffrey Huebschman. The subcommittee felt that all three nominees were very strong. Based on their review they sent suggestions for ways to improve their nomination packages to all three nominees. The subcommittee recommended that all three nominees be forwarded to System for final consideration. The recommendation passed unanimously.

b. The UWP Teaching Excellence Award Subcommittee (Adam Stanley and Qi Yang) reported recommendations for this year’s award. The current award provisions state that a “maximum of five letters of support” can be submitted. The subcommittee felt this was “oddly vague” and recommended changing the wording to be more specific. Initially it was recommended that three letters of support be stipulated in the award requirements. But the question was raised as to whether three letters would be enough to document all that is needed to demonstrate teaching excellence and a willingness to share teaching experience with others. The final motion was to stipulate that “three to five” letters would be required and the deadline for award submittals would be April 3. The motion was approved unanimously. It was also mentioned that Martha Drummond had not been able to meet with the subcommittee and another member would be needed. Representation would be needed from BILSA.

5. Sponsored programs has received one proposal for undergraduate teaching and learning grants. This proposal needs to be reviewed by the subcommittee (Keith Thompson, David Schuler, and T. A. Sandberg) for the next meeting of the ILC – February 17.

6. George Smith mentioned that two issues that should be resolved in upcoming meetings: (1) Consider making the two open ILC representatives full members of the committee (not ex-officio) and automatic representatives of their respective colleges (this ballooned into a discussion on whether or not the colleges are equally participating in University committees), and (2) Update sabbatical instructions so that it is clear what is expected—specifically, it should be clear that course development would not typically be appropriate for a sabbatical. George himself volunteered to draft suggested modifications to the sabbatical instructions and present them at a later meeting.

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:52.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2009
   4:00 p.m. – 1510 Ullsvik Center