

Minutes of Meeting February 11th, 2010

Approved April 7, 2010

Final

Committee Attendees: Austin, Boyd, Grisham, Jansma, Lew, Liggett (Chair), Loeher, Schultz, Smallberg, Snyder, Walker. Guest: Rob Rodgers

1. Quick topics

- a. AIME complaint regarding Video Furnace reserves – meeting of ITPB was held yesterday to brief the committee on the situation and give overview of copyright issues.
- b. WASC reaccreditation Team scheduled to visit 2/24-2/26 for the educational effectiveness portion of the review. FCET members may be asked to participate in a meeting with the site team on 2/25.

2. E-Section draft guidelines

In Winter 2010, three sections of Chemistry 14D were added to meet enrollment demand. Since the lecture hall cannot hold the additional 60 students, the professor and students in the additional sections agreed to pilot an e-section where lectures are only watched online via Bruincast, while discussion sections remain a traditional format. The FCET was asked to discuss this practice and make some recommendations or guidelines that could be forwarded to the ITPB. A draft list of guidelines and considerations was distributed to the committee.

Some committee members questioned the logic behind the e-sections. In the case of Chemistry 14D it appeared that the size of the physical classroom was the constraint, however in the experience of others it was funding for TAs that was the limiting factor.

Was the issue that physical lectures halls were not being fully utilized? Some faculty members felt that once a class was Bruincast that only two-thirds of students came to regular lectures. Therefore 'e-sections' were already happening informally on campus. Some suggested that perhaps what was really needed was guidelines for making a course open to more students than the room will fit, by perhaps 15-20% if the course is going to be Bruincast. Exam days would need more than one room, but this is already possible by notifying the registrar in advance. There would need to be some limit on what percentage of all Bruincasts would be this type of over enrolled e-sections as these courses would need a quick turnaround of their webcasts. There should also be some priority given to Bruincasting courses that are over-enrolled.

The feeling was that a lecture hall that holds 400 could enroll 460 students if it was Bruincast and that on a non-exam day all the students who came in-person would be able to find a seat. In the opinion of most, free form discussion rarely occurs in a large lecture so the difference in the lecture experience for those in person versus those via Bruincast would be minimal.

Nevertheless the committee cautioned against the reverse situation where a student is forced to watch the Bruincast when they want to attend a live lecture.

The committee felt more data was needed before drafting guidelines on e-sections and agreed that a future meeting would look at previous survey data gathered by OID regarding student attitudes and performance in courses offering Bruincasts of lectures, as well as new data currently being collected for the the Chem 14D e-section pilot. An additional student survey will be administered to a current large enrollment Anthro 7 course being Bruincast and the Committee will re-address e-sections when the data is available.

Next Meeting: Thursday March 11th 3:30-5:00pm in Powell 186