UCLA FACULTY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of Meeting December 10th, 2014

Committee Attendees: Barber, Christou, Finn, Ladner, Leaf, Lew, Loeher, Mamer (chair), Phelan, Pires, Shin, Snyder, Williams
Guests: Dutton

1. Quick Topics

   - Introduction of New Members
     o Jeanne Ladner, Physical Sciences; Chris Johanson, Classics; Neil Garg, Chemistry & Biochemistry; Juliet Williams, Gender Studies; David Leaf, Herb Alpert School of Music; Tom Phelan, Social Sciences Computing
   - Approve May 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes
     o May 7, 2014 minutes were approved.

2. Overview of IT Governance and role of FCET

   UCLA's IT Governance currently operates under a three committee structure: the Information Technology Planning Board (ITPB), the Committee on IT Infrastructure (CITI), and the Common Systems Group (CSG). The ITPB is comprised of both faculty and administrators, focused on IT planning, vision, and policy. CITI, made up of Deans and Vice Chancellors, is responsible for providing funding recommendations to the Chancellor. The CSG is a group of all the IT directors from every box on the university's org chart, and provides technical expertise to the ITPB and CITI.

   The FCET serves the Division of Undergraduate Education and the Office of Information Technology and advised the two offices, essentially bridging IT and undergraduate education. The committee's strength is that it represents both individuals who are responsible for the IT infrastructure and those who are actively using the infrastructure in various educational capacities. The FCET informs other committees, such as the ITPB, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and the Academic Senate.

   In the past, the FCET has weighed in on a number of issues, including the usage of CCLE, wireless, cell phones, and other specific issues of technology. Right now, the focus of the committee is online education.

   There are currently two other committees also looking at online education: the Steering Committee for Online Teaching & Learning (SCOT) and the Academic Senate Committee on Instructional Technology (CIT). The FCET differs from CIT in that CIT is more engaged in the academic administration of undergraduate classes and it is focused on reconciling the need for online classes vs. brick and mortar classes, while the FCET deals more with types of technology needed for instruction. John Mamer has invited Jan Reiff, chair of the SCOT, to present to the committee during the winter meeting.

3. Review of "Faculty Guidance for Online/Mediated Instruction at UCLA"

CIT is looking for feedback from the campus on the "Faculty Guidance for Online/Mediated Instruction at UCLA" document by January 9th, 2015. The document is a draft of guidelines that CIT has developed to assist faculty, programs, and departments as they design courses that make extensive use of online and media-based teaching.

The committee discussed the need for and effectiveness of online education. Early indications do not show much cost-savings and there is not much information to suggest that it is necessarily better than face-to-face. However, students do enjoy the time-shifting element and the ability to review materials as needed. There are some practical issues that need to be resolved, such as ownership of online courses, contractual obligations to run courses, and need for financial and technical resources to develop online courses. There are also issues with pedagogy, such as which courses can be converted to online and how to determine if students are learning the material. Unintended consequences of online courses are that students could develop a lack of emotional attachment to the institution, there will be fewer faculty needed if institutions could cross-list courses, and duplicate or smaller departments across the UCs could be merged or shut down.

The committee was concerned that the guidelines outlined in the document overlap with existing guidelines created by other groups and recommend that the CIT coordinate with these other groups. They also want to emphasize that the planning for online courses should be not separate from the planning of ordinary courses, and that there are various types of online courses that should not all be handled the same way. John Mamer will draft a response to the document and share it with the FCET electronically.

4. Update on Classroom Renovations – Chris Dutton

The Office of Instructional Development (OID) has been coordinating with Facilities to develop a better process for classroom upgrades and renovations. This summer, OID renovated Math Sciences 4000A and upgraded the AV systems in the room. Next summer, Facilities and Registrar have agreed to take the entire Dodd Hall offline for renovations. There is also a push to provide wireless in all of the general assignment classrooms, and a plan is in progress.