

## MINUTES

Teaching Council of the Faculty Senate  
May 1, 2006; 2:30 pm.

Members present: Cook, Craig, Breinig, Garrett, Marshall, Jennings, Hendrix

- I. The annual report was reviewed by members and approved for submission to the Senate.
- II. Comments from Dr. Bennett regarding the Early Alert System for online feedback to students were reviewed. Unfortunately, Dr. Bennett had a conflict and was unable to attend to clarify. Most members present had not encountered difficulties with the system and acknowledged that students sign up voluntarily. However, there was some discussion about whether the system could be improved for very large classes, and whether there should be review of the annual requirement for advising (to more frequent advising) Some departments or majors already require or suggest advising each semester. Dr. Lane will check with SAIS and Dr. Martin to determine any issues that require additional focus.
- III. There was some further discussion of the Best Practices Document for Evaluation of Teaching.
  - a. Most discussion regarded the individuals who should be involved in peer review teams. The consensus opinion was that tenure-track faculty should not be involved in the review of other faculty in their own department, due to potential conflict/retribution when they are reviewed for promotion and tenure. However, the involvement of tenure-track faculty and non-tenure-track faculty in a review and dialogue regarding teaching was considered very useful for faculty development. Tenure-track individuals or non-tenure-track faculty could be utilized as external reviewers for other departments, or could be observers in the process in order to learn about teaching practice and to become more prepared for participating fully at a later time.
  - b. Additional discussion was held about peer review practices. The council felt that development of a checklist or outline for peer reviewers, or additional education regarding elements of good teaching, could be provided for peer reviewers across campus.
  - c. Dr. Lane will review available resources and invite expert commentary/review for an early fall meeting in 2006.
- IV. Additional topics for consideration in 2006-07 were discussed.

- a. There was ongoing support for improvement of SET forms, especially for seminar style or learner-centered courses. The language can probably be improved for all forms.
  - b. Communication about teaching, research on teaching and learning, and awareness of teaching resources could be improved across campus, building on the Best Practices programs implemented by Dr. Papke.
- V. The Committee list was reviewed for 2006-07. By consensus, Dr. Lane will continue to serve as Chair. The attendees agreed to continue service. Dr. Lane will update the membership for the incoming Senate president.