Teaching Council Minutes  
February 13, 2002

Present: Frank Spicuzza, Jo Lynch, Marianne Brening, Norma Cook, Jarred Younger, Teresa Berry, Rob Heller, Esteban Walker, Mike Combs and Faye Julian

Frank Spicuzza called the meeting to order and introduced Sandy Cabbage, Program Resource Specialist with Undergraduate Academic Affairs, as recorder for the Council. Also introduced was Don Scroggins, Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. Minutes of the Council's meeting on November 14, 2001, were approved. Remaining business consisted of reports from the tree subcommittees.

Professional Awards:
Norma Cook, chair of the Awards Committee, reported that her committee received a total of 27 nominations - 13 for teaching awards and 14 for advising awards. Cook thanked the staff of Undergraduate Academic Affairs for their help in advertising and assimilating information on the awards and for notifying nominees. Cook asked for help with class visitations for teaching nominees. Spicuzza will coordinate contact with individuals nominated for advising awards.

Professional Development:
Teresa Berry discussed the successful panel discussion sponsored by the committee on February 4, 2002. Over 30 individuals attended the program during which award-winning teachers and advisors discussed their teaching/advising strategies and philosophies.

Student Assessment:
Jo Lynch, Coordinator for the Student Assessment of Instruction System, discussed plans for implementing the on-line assessment instrument. While the on-line program was originally intended to be phased in by colleges, the new plan is to allow all faculty to have their students complete forms either in class or on-line. The Council discussed comparisons of return rates from on-line and in-class versions of SAIS. The emphasis on the on-line instrument will result in cost savings for the University. The Council discussed at length the confidentiality of answers to open-ended student comment questions (i.e., is access to the comments available to anyone other than the instructor). Cook said that the comments were intended to be communicated to instructors only. Both Lynch and Scroggins said that under state law, such confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Ways by which the open-ended comment section could be separated from the general assessment form were explored. Mike Combs will continue to clarify some of the issues raised with the Faculty Senate. Lynch will continue to work with issues related to separation of the survey questions and the open-ended student comments.
Vacancies:
Spicuzza reported that the following members would be rotating off the Council at the end of this academic year: Brace, Brocket, Combs, Frank Davis, Heller, Madhukar and Spicuzza. If there was some interest in continuing on the Council, these members were encouraged to contact the chairperson.

Nominations:
Spicuzza requested members to provide him nominations for the 2002-03 chairperson position. An election will take place at the next meeting (March 13th).

Faculty Titles:
The membership was reminded that the Faculty Senate on March 4th will be considering a proposal that focused on faculty titles. Members of the Teaching Council voiced numerous concerns regarding the proposal, such as, a lack of a clear appeal process for non-tenured faculty; the use of the term "lecturer", and the process for hiring and retaining non-tenured track faculty. A concern was voiced that the proposal was not on the Senate website. The chairperson will contact the Senate President to request that the proposal be posted.

The next scheduled meeting is March 13, 2002.