

University Advisory Council on Teaching
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2003 4:00 pm

In attendance: Patrick Allitt, Bill Eley, Laura Kimble, Bob McCauley, Jim Morey, Wendy Newby, Walter Reed, Diana Robertson, Gretchen Schulz, Anne Sinkey, Donna Troka.

1. **Meeting Began.** Meeting called to order by Bob McCauley.
2. **Approval of Minutes from October meeting.** The minutes were approved for placement on the UACT website.
3. **Discussion of Master Teacher Program with Patrick Allitt and Walter Reed.** Drs. Allitt and Reed were asked to attend the UACT meeting to provide their feedback on the MTP program from last year, and suggest improvements for the program in the coming year. Diana Robertson provided a context for their comments, noting that although we have been very happy with the way Harvey Brightman has led the program, we are considering transitioning to a co-facilitation with Brightman and some in-house faculty, eventually running the program entirely within Emory within the next two years.

Concern that the MTP models and examples used by Brightman were discipline-specific were raised, and members suggested that we make the program more applicable to all disciplines by adding a seminar on teaching discussion classes, or adding a session on how to apply the information to specific disciplines. Bob McCauley and Gretchen Schulz noted that though somewhat similar programming is offered to the College by the Center for Teaching and Curriculum (CTC), fewer such programs are available to faculty in other schools. We may want to take this into consideration in incorporating humanities-specific programming into MTP. Monetary concerns were raised, as we would like to invite more people, but cannot afford to pay for the program with more participants. The idea to move the program in-house was also partially due to budgetary concerns. UACT members were asked to email Diana with nominations for MTP participants, board members, reviewers, and co-facilitators.

4. New Reports from Subcommittees.

Programming: Jim Morey suggested an idea for a year-long theme on “Science Literacy and Literate Science”. A handout was distributed listing possible speakers and workshops, with a focus on bringing basic science proficiency to the Emory community in order to create well-informed citizens.

Evaluation: Carol Hogue reported the status of the UACT evaluations and the committee agreed to send out one more round of requests for the survey in hopes that we can receive more responses and finish up the survey by the end of the semester. It was suggested that UACT interview Walt Reed and Gary Smith for their institutional memory regarding the original mission of UACT. We should then evaluate our current mission, whether it is sufficient, what our available resources are, and what future planning and goals should be made.

Communication: Laura Kimble led UACT through a demonstration of the navigation of the Emory webpage, noting the difficulty finding the UACT site. She noted that the Emory homepage says nothing about teaching, and offered examples from other university websites that include teaching on their homepages. The centralization of teaching resources at Emory, both virtually and actually, could improve. Some ideas about changing the site were reiterated, including critiques that the current UACT site is too text-heavy, inaccessible, not up-to-date, and difficult to navigate. The subcommittee will continue working on improving the website in the coming months.

5. **Review of mentoring and Beverly Tatum events.** Bob McCauley suggested that in the future UACT book smaller rooms, as the Tatum event did not draw as many attendees as we anticipated. He also suggested possibly trying to book two rooms, a large and a small room simultaneously, to have the larger one as a back-up in case of high turnout. Donna Troka provided an overview of the successful mentoring event, and Anne Sinkey outlined the Tatum event. Bill Eley and Jim Morey expressed some disappointment in the Tatum event.
6. **New Business.** Donna Troka suggested inviting President Wagner to attend our December UACT meeting. Bill Eley asked what next steps we can take to disseminate the brainstorming and evaluation that takes place at events such as the mentoring event. We agreed these concerns require future attention.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, December 4th** at 4pm in the Center for Teaching and Curriculum in the Candler Building.