UACT Minutes 02.05.04

Present: William Eley, Carol Hogue, Harriet King, Michael Lubin, Bob McCauley, Jim Morey, Wendy Newby, Gretchen Schulz, Gary Smith, Donna Troka, James Wagner

Absent: Arri Eisen, Laura Kimble, Diana Roberston, Anne Sinkey

I. The meeting began at 4:05pm

II. Approval of Minutes
The December 2003 minutes were approved

III. Discussion of UACT evaluation & Teaching Center proposal
The committee discussed what current resources might be devoted to a university teaching center and agreed that at this time the recommended resources would be those of UACT and UTF.

IV. Discussing the proposal with President Wagner
Upon his arrival to the meeting and a brief discussion about the proposal, President Wagner expressed that he was “genuinely ambivalent” about a centralized teaching center. His concerns focused on the possibility that the center would become the place for promoting teaching excellence and therefore individual departments and/or programs would relinquish their striving for such a goal. He asked three important questions:
-How can the university be supportive of teaching?
-How can the university be assertive about what their expectations are for teaching?
-How can we avoid a teaching center supplanting the responsibility of the departments and programs?

Harriet King suggested a discussion between the Associate Deans who work with tenure and promotion, and the UACT members.

President Wagner then discussed what he is calling the “zero phase” of strategic planning or the strategic planning plan. Here he explained that approximately ten “think tank” groups were being formed to discuss the strategic plan. He suggested that there be a UACT member in each one of these groups to ensure the topic of teaching gets addressed. He also suggested that UACT continue work on a formal charter for a teaching center. Perhaps create internal workshops that would work towards articulating a clear vision/mission statement for a centralized teaching center. Lastly, President Wagner suggested
that UACT request some of the “strategic planning” funding to gather data at other prominent and successful teaching centers like Stanford University’s and the teaching center at the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill.

V. Subcommittee reports

Programming Subcommittee: Jim Morey reported that Ursula LeGuin was not available to give a lecture at Emory University next year as part of the Science Literacy and Literate Science theme. Next in line, Morey explained are: Larry Altman, Thomas Cech and Rita Colwell. * a handout was passed out*

Carol Hogue suggested that while the theme for the larger lectures would be Science Literacy and Literate Science, the smaller, lunchtime events should focus on the Future of Teaching at Emory. These small invitation-only “think tank” meetings would serve as a place for information gathering on topics related to teaching like tenure and promotion. This internal information gathering would take place alongside external information gathering (at places like Stanford, UNC, etc).

While everyone agreed that this was a great idea, Harriet King pointed out that this higher level of programming would require more staff support. It was then suggested that the support for these smaller information gathering events come out of the strategic planning budget. This will be suggested in the formal charter for a teaching center.

No other subcommittees reported

VI. New Business

Gretchen Schulz reported on several new programs happening at Oxford: The Journal of Cognitive Affective Learning (JCAL), and a visit from Dr. Alexander Astin, Director of UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute on Wednesday, April 21st. * a handout was passed out*

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.