University Advisory Council on Teaching (UACT)
Meeting Minutes
09.14.05

In attendance: Shana Deitch, Susanna Elliot, Vicki Hertzberg, Michael Lubin, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Jim Morey, Wendy Newby, Michael Neville, Gretchen Schulz, Claire Sterk

Excused: Arri Eisen, Bill Eley, Mel Gutterman, Harriet King, Donna Troka, Steve Walton

Absent: Patrick Allitt, Michelle Lampel

Guest: Jennifer Romig

1. Michael Lubin welcomes everyone back for a new academic year and his 2\textsuperscript{nd} year as UACT chair. Michael also announces that Shana Deitch is resigning as Program Coordinator this month. The meeting with Provost Lewis, Harriet King, and Claire Sterk, regarding the Teaching Center and the report compiled last year, went well; however the Provost has not made any formal response yet insofar as plans to move ahead with the center are concerned. The report was emailed to UACT members, is available for perusal (contact Shana or Susanna Elliott for a copy), and will soon be posted on the website.

2. Claire Sterk, the new Senior Vice Provost and UACT’s liaison to the Provost’s office, is very excited to be working with us. Even though she came in at the tail end of last semester, she is very impressed by UACT’s group consensus and the work that was done both to gather teaching center information and to compile the report. Claire also introduced her Research Coordinator, Susanna Elliott, who will be assuming some of Shana’s duties in the interim in addition to her research duties.

3. Shana went through the schedule for the year’s UACT programs. The first teaching center panel will take place on October 5 at 4 p.m. in the Carlos Museum Reception Hall. Guest speakers will include Constance Cook, the director of the University of Michigan’s Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), accompanied by Ifeoma Nwankwo, Assistant Professor of Afro-American and African Studies and English. Also speaking at the October panel is Michele Marincovich, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at Stanford University, accompanied by Ronald Barrett, Assistant Professor of Anthropological Studies. Center directors will talk about frameworks for teaching centers and give examples of innovative programming that has been successful at their universities. Faculty members will discuss how they have utilized their respective teaching center and explain why such centers can be a resource for teachers at all levels. Professors Nwankwo and Barrett will each be giving their own lectures, focusing on their respective research and publications. Dr. Barrett’s lecture will take place on October 4 at 4 p.m. in the Rita Anne Rollins Room (#860) in the School of Public Health. Dr. Nwankwo’s lecture (by special invitation only) will take place on October 6 at noon in Candler Library Room 207.

An MTP graduate student follow-up luncheon took place on August 23 and there will be another follow-up luncheon, on November 10 at noon, for faculty MTP participants from all three years of MTP programs. Faculty will be able to share their classroom...
experiences and successes with each other and with Harvey Brightman, who will also be on hand to answer any questions regarding teaching techniques.

The Spring 2006 Teaching Center panel will include Ed Neal, Director of the faculty development program at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and Pat Molholt, Acting Director of the Center for Education, Research and Evaluation (CERE) of Columbia University. Each director will also bring a faculty member from their respective school. Ed Neal and the invited faculty member will talk about the importance of addressing the “life cycle” of a teacher from graduate student instructor to tenured professor. Pat Molholt and the invited faculty member will suggest frameworks for a teaching and learning center that is located in the health sciences. Dates for the panel and any associated faculty lectures TBA.

The fourth annual Master Teacher Program, sponsored by UACT, and facilitated by Dr. Harvey Brightman, has been scheduled for May 17-19, 2006, barring any competing faculty events. Nominations for faculty participants will be solicited from school deans in January.

Jim Morey expressed concern about attendance for the teaching center panels, as they are UACT’s major programs and focus for the year. Wendy Newby suggested trying to submit an article in the Emory Report in time for the first event in October, as well as sending an announcement through the all-faculty listserv. Claire and Susanna will check to see if an all-faculty email is possible. If not, it may be possible to send the information to the school deans, in order for them to send an announcement to the faculty in their schools. Jim Morey also suggested sending invitations to all of the faculty who have participated in UACT’s various roundtables, surveys, discussions, etc. regarding an Emory teaching center. Shana will add those names to the invitation list. Michael Neville cited the bottleneck around identifying participants for MTP that occurred last year as a potential problem in identifying faculty to invite to the panels. Shana remarked that that bottleneck appeared to occur at the school dean level. Claire and Michael will do their best to prevent that from happening in their communication with school deans.

5. Jennifer Romig (Law School) announced that she had gotten UTF funding to organize training on interdisciplinary teaching methods to facilitate faculty into reflecting upon their teaching methods and how those methods affected the growth of their students, especially after the students leave Emory. She stated this would probably be most imaginable among clinical faculty and students but should be applicable to all disciplines. Jennifer envisions this to be a one-time luncheon event with a duration of approximately two hours. She is seeking non-monetary sponsorship from UACT and would like to coordinate with our schedule to ensure that there is no conflict with UACT programming. Various dates were discussed; some UACT faculty believe it would be better to schedule the even before spring break to assure good attendance. Shana will send Jennifer our tentative Spring schedule and email the information to Donna so that she and Jennifer and coordinate the timing of the event. Gretchen Schulz also suggested that the subject matter of this training may make for an effective MTP module for the third day’s MTP schedule.
6. Michael Lubin suggested that we change October’s meeting date (the 12th) because many council members will be unable to be at the meeting. October 19th was suggested as the tentative new date, with the meeting taking place at the same time and in the same location.

Michael also proposed that UACT do some preliminary investigation into Emory’s tenure and promotion criteria and practices by school, to assess whether the University actually does value teaching at the same level as research, insofar as faculty advancement is concerned. UACT members agreed that it may be difficult to gain access to that proprietary information so it may be necessary to ask for it in a somehow de-identified manner. UACT members agreed that it was an important question and they will look into how to best collect that information and definitely keep this matter on the table.

Wendy Newby asked to be added to next meeting’s agenda.