The Committee on Comprehensive Evaluation of Teaching  
March 4, 2010 Minutes

Attending: Adam Fingerhut, Jen Pate (Co-chair), Maria Quijada, and Kevin Wetmore

Resource Persons: Christine Chavez, Jackie Dewar, and Nick Mattos

Handouts: BCLA Classroom Observation Guidelines, BCLA Course Syllabus Checklist, CTE Template Syllabus, Syracuse University Classroom Observation Worksheet, Checklist of Teaching Skills (National Academy of Sciences), Class Observation Checklist (American Society for Engineering Education), Results from student survey (Fingerhut, Leung, Quijada).

The meeting began at 10:00am with approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

The data from students in 4 courses who were asked to provide 3 adjectives to describe an effective (ineffective) instructor (instruction) seemed to match the dimensions of teaching outlined by Feldman, although sometimes a single adjective would cross multiple dimensions.

Jackie reviewed the rationale behind the revision of the student rating of teaching (SRT) form and reported some feedback on the results from the new SRT form. The 90th percentile data indicates somewhat lower overall ratings, but this could be related to a number of factors, and indicates that there is room for improvement in courses and instruction. Some observers indicated that there were fewer written comments. This could be a result of better questions, or other factors.

The Committee discussed goals for the semester and for next fall, which included the following.

Spring 2010
- Make a report back to Faculty Senate underscoring the need for multiple measures and outlining future committee work on peer evaluation and syllabus review
- Gather information on peer evaluation from LMU and on best practice across higher ed

Fall 2010
- Focus on peer evaluation and a syllabus checklist as a starting point
- Clarify the two very different purposes of peer review
  - Formative: to improve instruction
  - Summative: to evaluate instruction
- Begin to draft a document outlining comprehensive evaluation of teaching
  - Importance of multiple measures
  - List of tools to evaluate teaching
    - Begin with CET document

The Committee spent some time discussing peer observation across the University. The consensus was that it was not standardized, and not always done well. The Committee would be interested in drafting a form or list of best practices for peer eval and a syllabus review checklist. Jackie agreed to provide some literature on peer observation for the committee to review.

Additional ideas included establishing a peer visitation week for open classroom observation of excellent or award winning teachers.

The Committee would be interested in seeing the results of the CAOs request to departments for statements on teaching, research, and service. This could inform the timeline and workload of the Committee moving forward.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 25 at 10am in CTE. The focus will be on (1) key points to include in the end-of-semester report to Faculty Senate and (2) review of the various instruments now in committee members’ possession for peer observation and syllabus review.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

NOTE: At this time the Committee is going forward without a chair. CTE can facilitate its work until a new chair is selected.