

**Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2014**

Present: Gordon Alderink, Mostafa El-Said, Vijay Gondhalekar, Janel Pettes Guikema (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Catherine Meyer-Looze, Christine Renner, Elizabeth Saukas, Scott St. Louis, Robert Talbert, Jamie Langlois, Janet Vigna.

Meeting called to order: 1:00pm

Approval of Agenda: The committee voted to approve the agenda. Vijay Gondhalekar moved, Barb Hooper seconded. Approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The committee voted to approve the minutes of February 27, 2012. Vijay Gondhalekar moved, Robert Talbert seconded. Approved.

Announcements

The Grants sub-committee had met on October 6 and the submitted proposals were discussed and reviewed.

Discussion

The Chair of the committee indicated that the Monday meeting time may have to be reconsidered for next semester given that the meeting location would change to downtown next semester. There was a discussion on whether the committee could meet once a month for 2 hours (instead of twice a month) or whether the committee meetings could be held by alternating between online and face-to-face forums during the winter semester. The issue will be explored further via survey.

The committee discussed the charge about exploring ways to promote scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) and address possible disconnect between the view taken by the faculty handbook and the view taken by units especially for Promotion and Tenure considerations. The committee felt that it needed more clarification on why the UAS felt there was a disconnect between the views (handbook and units) – the committee chair will seek this clarification. Committee members had read 3 important articles on this topic and they discussed various insights about SoTL provided by these articles. Members were generally of the opinion that units fail to encourage SoTL and that such scholarship often does not receive same footing as subject specific scholarship in P&T considerations and for annual merit pay considerations. There was discussion on whether the bias against SoTL starts early on during the PhD years. One reason forwarded by a committee member for the emphasis on subject-specific research is that units may be wanting to make sure that faculty members (at least prior to receiving tenure) are capable of understanding cutting edge research in their area of thinking and are capable of pursuing subject-specific scholarship. There was discussion on the issue that when a faculty member engages in SoTL it has a beneficial impact on their teaching effectiveness and so encouragement of SoTL is important for a teaching focused institution. However, it was also argued that some members could be as effective at teaching without engaging in SoTL as those that are directly engaged in SoTL. Members also discussed several FTLC initiatives that already encourage SoTL and bringing them to the attention of faculty members even more. The committee decided to continue with the discussion during the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vijay Gondhalekar