

FTLCAC Minutes

March 23, 2015

Present: Bruce Bettinghaus, Barb Hooper, Mostafa El-Said, Cynthia Grapczynski, Kathryn Stieler, Barb Blankemeier, Robert Talbert, Janel Pettes Guikema, Matthew Roberts, Gordon Alderink, Jamie Langlois

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm.
- 2) Approval of agenda: moved by R. Talbert; seconded by J. Pettes Guikema
- 3) Approval of minutes from February 9: moved by C. Grapczynski; seconded by B. Bettinghaus
- 4) Announcements
 - a) Pettes Guikema brought the committee's recently revised duties to ECS, which was approved unanimously. The document will be discussed by the UAS this Friday.
 - b) Pettes Guikema will not be serving next year. At the next meeting the committee will need to discuss nominations for chair for next year.
- 5) Reports from SoTL subcommittees
 - a) Talbert reported on the work of the subcommittee that discussed ways to promote SoTL. Suggestions included a multifaceted communication strategy involving fliers/brochures, a website, and a recurring newsletter (or social media presence) highlighting information about SoTL. The subcommittee also discussed model language that could be included in different college's promotion and tenure documentation. (*further details may be found in a specific summary provided by this subcommittee*)
 - b) B. Hooper briefly discussed the second subcommittee's efforts to examine how SoTL is addressed or not addressed across the various colleges.
 - c) The committee briefly discussed how policies regarding SoTL may relate to the development of a new university-wide committee regarding personnel policies.
- 6) Academic Integrity
 - a) Pettes Guikema provided an update on the dormant website on academic integrity. While a website, forum, and committee did exist they have been inactive since 2010.
 - b) The Academic Integrity Action Plan from 2010 proposed a university-wide "Academic Integrity Officer." Karen Gipson has informed the committee that Aaron Haight in the Dean of Students office would fill many of the functions that had been identified, under the title of "Judicial Officer."

- c) The committee discussed how the lack of context regarding the FTLAC's charge on the issue, as well as the lack of context about the 2010 action plan, makes it difficult to know how to proceed.
 - d) Talbert emphasized that compared to the issue of SoTL research, uniformity across the colleges is important and that the potentially legal nature of the issue suggests that the University Counsel's office should be included in the planning process.
 - e) The chair agreed to seek greater insight into the committee's charge in order to help shape potential planning and responses.
 - f) Bettinghaus suggested that pending the response about the committee's charge, a first step should be to revisit the 2010 action plan for implementation.
- 7) Grant application and Teaching Award nomination process
- a) Pettes Guikema reviewed efforts from last year and this year to streamline the process for nominating teaching award recipients. The general perspective is that the process worked better this academic year.
 - b) K. Stieler discussed changes that are being made to streamline and clarify the grant application process. Issues being addressed include: gathering greater data about grants and applications, simplifying the process of applying, encouraging proposals for more truly innovative projects, and addressing issues with awarding travel grants. The current plan is to roll out changes starting July 1. Stieler also noted that previous policy changes about repeat applicants have helped broaden the pool of individuals receiving travel grants. While this latter change has been met with frustration by many faculty, it has made a quantifiable difference in the total population of faculty receiving travel grants.
 - c) The committee discussed the issue of tying travel grants to the type of involvement proposed (presenting simply versus attending). Stieler noted that the deadline for the grants happens long before many people know whether their conference proposals have been accepted. In part for this reason, the tradition of the FTLC grants has been to award money to those who attend conferences without presenting. It was also noted that CSCE has its own dissemination grant that covers those who present their research.
 - d) The committee discussed the common practice of individuals "double-dipping" by receiving both FTLC and CSCE grants, as well as how individual unit expectations about scholarly presentation are frequently not commensurate with the funds provided by the unit itself.
 - e) As a way to promote wiser use of funds, Stieler discussed a plan for a new category of grants that would encourage webinar-based professional development. The individual applying for the grant would serve as a local facilitator, soliciting a list of other faculty who would like to attend as well as hosting a discussion afterwards among those who participated.
 - f) Stieler asked the committee to consider how the grant process could encourage SoTL research. It was suggested that the travel grant application process could ask

applicants to identify whether they were involved in SoTL dissemination, which could be used as a weighting factor for making award decisions.

- g) Stieler also briefly discussed plans to continue the existing practices of teaching circles and learning communities. A new category of grants is being proposed, focused on encouraging faculty to attend a curated selection of high quality events such as the Lilly Conferences and the Knapsack Institute.
 - h) Stieler also noted that a plan is underway to eliminate the various competitive grants (i.e. Scholar Teacher and Technology Enhancement) and combine them into one general “innovation” grant. The principal benefit would be to simplify questions of which grants faculty should apply for.
 - i) The committee discussed, at Stieler’s request, how curriculum writing relates to normal faculty workload and grant-funded innovation in teaching.
 - j) A revised version of the application materials will be available for committee comment prior to our next meeting (April 13).
- 8) Fall Faculty Fora on Student Engagement
- a) This item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
 - b) Pettes Guikema will provide materials to committee members to prepare for that conversation.
- 9) Miscellanea
- a) Pettes Guikema noted that the committee will likely not have time to consider its charge regarding best practices in simulations. This item should be tabled for consideration in the next academic year.
- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm. The next meeting (and last of the year) is scheduled for Monday, April 13 from 1 – 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,
—M. Roberts