**University Council on Teaching**

**Meeting of Thursday April 28, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

**12:00 – 12:50 What is the role of the UCT?**

* Some uncertainty about the role of the UCT
* Due to the CTE, the role of the UCT has to be redefined
* There are a lot of good discussions at meetings, however, not much is coming from them
* The nature of faculty committees is advisory
* Provost has an advisory committee, however, has poor policies for choosing speakers
* Suggestion: in the future should there only be meetings as issues arise?
* The UCT is the faculty voice related to teaching
  + Faculty on the UCT have to speak for their colleagues and not only consider their own POV
* Should the UCT invite David Quigley/ Father Leahy to a meeting?
* Should the UCT bring David Quigley to the first meeting?
  + Ask him what he wants the UCT to accomplish and set some ways for getting the it done
* However, there should be a meeting, even via online, before the UCT meets with David to brainstorm
* The UCT decided that there should be some coordination to come up with an action plan that has 5 items and ask if it is something David will support and how the items will get done
* However, David should not necessarily dictate what the UCT exclusively works on
* In fall, have directors of undergrad studies come in and talk about issues in their program
* The UCT could also have the provost come in and listen to the UCT’s issues and ask if the UCT will have his support
* Provost should tell the UCT what he wants the UCT to do and make sure there is follow through
* Examples of what the UCT has done:
  + Allowed students the ability to get fewer than 3 credits for a class
  + Changed how long a student could stay in class before withdrawing
  + Stopped students from gathering outside and playing music near classrooms during certain times
  + Created policy on faculty student relationships
  + Undergrad advisors are now reviewed just like professors
* Issues that the UCT could focus on next semester:
  + Teaching issue – athlete summer school program should be changed
  + Adjunct faculty issue
    - Adjunct faculty could benefit from CTE; there is no outreach from CTE to adjunct professors
* The UCT meeting notes are available on the provost website
* Statement on what the UCT does is in the faculty handbook, however, it is so vague it is useless
* The UCT could propose revised language for the handbook and the provost would revise faculty handbook
* Written reports on issues were sent to provost
* The UCT has asked deans to go to faculty and ask about issues and could ask department heads to do the same to get feedback
* Can the UCT add roles to the UCT for adjunct, junior professors, and TA’s?
  + Professors have to be selected to the committee so it is unlikely that lower level faculty could be added to the committee

**12:50 – 1:00 Selection of new UCT Chair**

* The precedent was to ask people in last year of term
* Jeff willing do it another year if there is a plan for next year
* Next year the chair could divide up action items and assign them to members so all the work is not placed on the chair

Agenda Item: Need to replace outgoing members

Attendees: Jeff Cohen, Rob Bloom, Jackie Lerner, Stephanie Leone, John Rakestraw, Katie McInnis-Dittrich, Kathy Bailey, Danielle Taghian, Stacey Grooters