Academy of Distinguished Teachers  
Twin Cities Steering Committee  

MINUTES  
Friday, February 20, 2009  
238 Morrill Hall, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Present: Ruth Lindquist, Mike White, Deborah Levison, Tom Molitor, Ruth Lindquist, Karen Zentner Bacig, Jeremy Hernandez

Regrets: Jay Hatch, Marshall Stern, Gary Gray, Vern Cardwell

Guest: Bob McMaster, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

Discussion with Bob McMaster of Provost’s Interdisciplinary Team re Interdisciplinary Teaching  
(2:30-3:30 p.m.)

Bob’s thoughts:
- Proposal in compact process for three or four interdisciplinary courses, as a way to begin to break down barriers relative to interdisciplinary teaching across collegiate units (e.g., religion, immigration, science and technology). Idea was to request funds to release faculty to be in the classroom for the interdisciplinary course for the entire semester. This is expensive. Would need support to develop course, for TAs, to sustain, etc. Each time you offered a course like this is would cost roughly $100K. This is a real barrier. Idea was to pilot this in the Honors program and then move beyond this ultimately. Currently no new funds for something like this. But, Bob is still interested in creating these kinds of courses, “University courses” that are not tied to any college but instead are tied to the Office of Undergraduate Education. Idea was that the tuition that came in would be shared by OUE for development costs and colleges for faculty buy-out costs.
- Original proposal was 40-50 students at 3000 level, accompanied by smaller discussion sections. Long term, course sizes could increase to create a more sustainable program financially.
- Also sees importance for promoting these kinds of courses at the freshman level. Currently, freshman seminars are by their very nature interdisciplinary. How can they play a larger role in promoting interdisciplinary thinking among students? Currently, 40% of freshmen take freshman seminars.

Discussion:
- Role of an institute like the Institute on the Environment? Yes, the idea was to reach out to other centers like this, as well as to promote service learning.
- Opportunities for Foundation / development work for this initiative?
- Structural challenges to trying to offer interdisciplinary courses currently
- Currently penalties for collaborative teaching
  - Allocation of faculty work load
  - Attribution of tuition

Messages for Interdisciplinary Team from ADT TCSC?
- Interested in broader concept of interdisciplinary teaching (levels, disciplines, etc.)
- U-designator for interdisciplinary courses versus being tied to the college. Is it possible for a departmental designator to co-exist with a U-designator so that faculty participation is recognized and appreciated at the department level?
- Need trusted entity to coordinate
• Important to teaching mission of University
• Getting deans to agree to tuition attribution model is key (per Bob)
• Possibility of a pool for departments to tap to pay for expenses of interdisciplinary courses?
• Want to see designators at both the graduate and undergraduate level
• See this as important to work through in order to best serve students with interdisciplinary teaching and courses. Also helps with recruiting faculty who are doing interdisciplinary work, both on the research and the teaching side.
• ADT willing to be a sounding board around these issues.
• Jay Bell in CFANS has drafted an MOU re collaborative teaching
• Liberal Education is one place where interdisciplinary courses could touch all students

**ACTION: Karen** will find Network on Interdisciplinary Initiatives (NII) work to see if any work has been done relative to interdisciplinary teaching and whether we know what is being done at other institutions.

**FYI:** Currently, Bob and staff are looking at relationship of a number of factors to financial aid issues. Provost and Vice Provost McMaster have recently sent a memo to deans indicating a curriculum review will be undertaken to see if/where there may be bottlenecks to graduating in a timely manner.

**Spring Conference – Update (Jeremy)**
• 24 or 25 proposals. Evenly balanced between workshop and guided discussions.
• Committee will meet during week of 2/23 to make decisions about proposals.
• We should have sufficient proposals to fill the day.

**SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning)**
Jay was not at the meeting so we will carry this item over to a future meeting.

**Student Rating of Teaching – Update (Karen)**
• Responsibility for SRT now in the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

**Classrooms in Academic Buildings – Brief Review of Recent FCC Discussion**
Steve Fitzgerald, Director of the Office of Classroom Management, will be joining our March meeting to discuss classrooms in academic buildings as well as other OCM updates. Please review

**Future Discussion Items**
• Implementation of SLOs (Tom)
  o ADT statement?

**Upcoming meetings:**
March 27, 2009, 2:30-4:00 p.m., 238 Morrill Hall
April 17, 2009, 2:30-4:00 p.m., 238 Morrill Hall
May 15, 2009, 2:30-4:00 p.m., 238 Morrill Hall