

Minutes of the University Council on Teaching
November 7, 2003
Bourneuf House, 4 PM

Present: Fred Yen (chair), Sue Barrett, Theresa Hammond, Ellen Winner, Larry Ludlow, William Petri, Mary Joe Hughes

This was the first meeting for the '03-'04 academic year. Our basic objective was to set an agenda for this year. AVP Jack Neuhauser attended and offered his perspective on items that we might address. These items included:

1. Renewal of "Andover Weekends" with a faculty teaching emphasis.
 - In the past they served an important function in introducing faculty to the university.
 - We could host a couple this year.
 - They should be focused on specific topics (e.g. approaches to teaching)
 - We would want new/newer faculty and experienced faculty to participate.

While this idea was only briefly discussed, it did receive strong support, particularly by those of us who had attended one of these.

2. Re-consideration of the University Core.
 - Is it currently providing the best educational experience that it was designed for?There was not much discussion about how to tackle this topic.

3. Post-tenure seminar experience
 - ~~Newly~~ newly tenured faculty could receive one seme

6. Remaining freshman advising issues.

The general issue here seems to be to get more new students into closer contact with faculty in small-group interactions. These could take a variety of formats with differing credits for students and loads for faculty.

- Summer orientation could be supplemented with a stronger academic component.
- Existing programs such as Cornerstone could be modified to provide a stronger academic component (removing the “shared inquiry” component was one strong suggestion in its place, professors could offer freshman seminars on their area of expertise).
- New programs could be developed under the auspices of the TAM grant system to create creative university, social, and academic experiences for freshmen.
- Whether the proposed freshman seminars were offered in 1 or 3-credit packages, all the proposals that were discussed included more of an academic component. This component was often some form of “research seminar” experience.
- This additional experience could be offered to all freshmen as a common core require