

Teaching Effectiveness Committee

Annual Report

March 2010

The charge to the committee

The Teaching Effectiveness Committee shall promote good teaching at the University by: conducting and reporting to the Faculty Senate an annual audit of programs, activities, policies, etc., which are available at the University to support good teaching; serving as an advisory committee to the Instructional Development Program; undertaking each year, in cooperation with other interested parties, an initiative designed to improve teaching practices at the University. The Director of the Instructional Development Program and the Director of Information and Instructional Technology Services shall serve as *ex officio* members of this committee.

The members of the committee

Jim Kinnie, LIB Chair

Susan Trostle Brand, EDC

Lori Ciccomascolo, Associate Dean, HSS

Jerry Cohen, PSY

Rita Marcoux, PHP

Kathleen Torrens, COM

Judy Van Wyk SOC

Bette Erickson, Director of IDP, *ex officio*

David Porter, Information and Technology Services, *ex officio*

Temitope Daodu, Student Representative

Ron Bickham, Student Representative

Sarah Murphy, Graduate Student Association Representative

The Teaching Effectiveness Committee met in the Fall 2009 semester to discuss topics for the academic year. After talking about issues outlined in the Wabash study, the committee initially decided to work toward identifying best practices for faculty in implementing a 4-credit curriculum. After much discussion the committee

realized that the 4-credit movement was taking on a life of its own and that identifying an area where the committee could be useful was difficult. Many of the issues we discussed will be addressed by the new Ad Hoc Committee on Four-Credit Courses and Curricula.

Before we took any action on the 4-credit issues, the Joint AAUP-Board of Governors Committee on Student Evaluation of Teaching (IDEA committee) requested that the Teaching Effectiveness Committee survey the URI faculty about the use of the IDEA-SRI Teaching Evaluation System.

During the Spring 2010 semester the IDEA Committee will be conducting a pilot for online administration to the IDEA system in order to determine if best practices in faculty administration of the system that were implemented after the Spring 2009 online pilot will lead to higher student response rates. After meeting with the IDEA Committee in January 2010, the Teaching Effectiveness Committee agreed to survey the faculty to determine, in general, how satisfied faculty are with the system, and in particular, how to develop strategies that will increase the response rate. The survey will be conducted in the Fall semester 2010.