

# **Annual Report of the Teaching Effectiveness Committee April 2006**

## **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**

Mark Conley, MUS, (07)  
Wendy Holmes, ART, (06)  
Jim Kinnie, LIB, (06)  
Kendall Moore, JOR, (07)  
Glen Ramsay, ECN, (07), Chair  
Joelle Rollo-Koster, HIS, (06)  
Bette Erickson, Director of IDP, ex officio  
Trent Batson, Director of IITS, ex officio

## **Year's activities of the committee**

The committee met on November 18, 2005 to plan for the year. Three areas of concern were discussed; the need for discipline specific workshops, the use of technology in the classrooms, and on-line learning. One member felt that the fine arts had very special educational needs and thought that special workshops should be run in the Fine Arts Center. Special workshops are run by the IDP for graduate students in Math, however, increasingly scarce resources make such specialized workshops impossible. Several members expressed concern with media and technology in the classrooms. Their concerns revolved around scheduling and reliability of equipment. The majority of the Committee raised concerns involving on-line courses. The number of summer sections has gone from 26 in 2002 to 64 last summer, Enrollment in these courses has risen from 539 to 1,268. In the last two years enrollment in on-line courses during the fall semester has increased from 394 to 993. We recognized this explosive growth was creating

interest in various aspects of on-line courses throughout the University and had heard about the potential formation of several committees.

The provost formed a major committee, the On-Line Learning Committee *to develop recommendations, policies, guidelines and procedures necessary to support the operations of all asynchronous web-based courses and programs sponsored by the University*. Two members of the Teaching effectiveness Committee have agreed to serve on this committee (Jim Kinnie and Glen Ramsay).

In addition we found out that the Curricular Affairs Committee had established a subcommittee that was looking into a number of delivery methods including on-line delivery of courses. At this point the TEC decided that it should not duplicate efforts.

The Committee met again in the Spring and decided that we could best serve the University by gathering information that might be useful to the other committees. With this in mind the Committee has decided to survey both students and instructors of on-line courses. We are currently working on the survey and hope to be able to administer it in the fall of next year. We welcome input from fellow senators.